The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1894.

The Week.

IDLE money continues to heap up at an extraordinary rate in the vaults of the world's great banks. Since the opening of the year the Bank of England's supply of coin has increased $26,000,000; the Imperial Bank of Germany has gained $18,500,000, the Bank of France $5,000,000. Our own clearing-house banks gained $42,000,000 cash up to the opening of February, when payment of Government-bond subscriptions began, and, despite the $46,000,000 subscribed in this city, our total bank reserve even now is greater than at December's close. To show how useless these huge funds have become for investment in business enterprise, it may be added that the Bank of England's total reserve was last week 60 per cent. of its liabilities, the Bank of France's coin holdings 75 per cent. of liabilities, and the Bank of Germany's 65 per cent., while the legal-tender reserve of our New York city banks stands now at 29¼ per cent. of their total liabilities, and nearly 40 per cent. of the deposit account alone. This situation amply explains why the maximum of discount rates at all of the world's financial centres is as low as our own 2½ per cent. three months' rate, or lower. The official bank rates in London and Berlin have been twice reduced within the last two months.

To a practical mind it would surely seem a strange remedy for such a condition to pour into the money circulation of this or other nations some hundred millions of new silver currency. This is, however, precisely what Mr. Bland proposes, in his fiat-money bill disguised under the fiction of a coined "seigniorage." In one shape or another, it is the remedy contemplated by every advocate of a return to a silver currency. Of course, the new money, like the old, would flow at once to the great reserve depositories. If a full supply of money at the lending centres means revived activity in trade, why does not industry leap forward now, when the idle money in almost every central market of the world has reached a volume greater than financial history has ever yet recorded? Even those broad-minded economists who lay the whole blame of our present trade stagnation on the tariff issue, will find trouble in fitting their theory to England, Germany, and France. The plainest fact of all in the situation is, that currency uncertainty has been a fruitful cause of recent financial ills. Uncertainty redoubled by legislation would hardly serve to revive financial confidence.

An attempt was made on Monday to obstruct the tariff bill by planting in its pathway the Bland seigniorage bill—the "bill to coin a vacuum." The plan is to keep the bill on the table instead of referring it to the committee on finance, and to take it up for endless discussion whenever the tariff bill is reported back. Mr. Stewart of Nevada is prepared to speak several days on it, and his colleague Jones can repeat his old speech of the Brussels conference and of the last session of Congress, with such additions as have come into his mind since its last production. It is said that Mr. Lodge of Massachusetts is much impressed with the need of action on the Bland bill, and that the Republicans generally will "antagonize" the tariff bill with the Bland bill. The Democrats are not very bright, but we presume that they can see that the killing of the tariff bill by indirection will destroy their party as effectually as killing it in any other way. They can break their necks over the Bland bill and get no tariff bill at all, if they are so dull as to allow Stewart and Lodge to plan their campaign for the next election. It should be added that they are losing precious time even apart from the Bland bill. They are acquiring the reputation of people who do not know their own mind—the most fatal of all plights for a political party. If it should turn out that they have been dilly-dallying in order to fall at last into the embrace of the Sugar Trust, or to favor speculations in sugar, we would not give much for their future chances.

Of course ex-President Harrison had to assure the Colorado people of his friendliness to silver as he passed through their State on his way to California last week. But he made a bad mistake when he ventured beyond this position, as he did, when he said at Trinidad:

> "There are clear indications now in England and in Germany that they are feeling the effects of a scarcity of gold and its prostrating effects upon the industries. I believe those two great countries are nearer right to-day than they have been for the last twenty years. They are considering favorably the question of a larger and freer use of silver as a money metal and bimetallism. I do not think that those countries are coming to the next silver conference as a country maiden waiting for us to make the advances, holding back, but will come with greater readiness than in recent years, and will agree with us upon a basis for a larger use of silver as money."

These remarks were made by the ex-President on Wednesday week. On Thursday Sir William Harcourt announced in the House of Commons that the Government had no information which would lead it to believe that any government desired a reassembling of the Monetary Conference. The British Government did not intend to make such a proposal, as it saw no advantage in it.

The question of free ships, or at least of some radical modification of our navigation laws, will probably come before the House this week. It is already clear that the floodgates were opened by the admission to American registry of the foreign-built *Paris* and *New York*, and that an equivalent privilege must be extended to other steamship lines. That is the least that can be done in fairness, and the final step of allowing an American to fly his flag over his own property, wherever bought, cannot be long delayed. The statistics compiled from Lloyd's Register by the Bureau of Navigation show how steadily vessels are increasing in size and substituting steel for wood, thus making the purpose of our antiquated shipping laws more and more impossible of attainment.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, the Civil Service Commissioner, has been having a sharp correspondence with Secretary Carlisle touching removals for political reasons, of which it appears there have been several in the Treasury, and the matter has been now turned over to the Senate in response to a resolution. We have not seen Mr. Carlisle's side of the controversy, and therefore know of his position only from Mr. Roosevelt's report, from which it appears that the secretary holds that if a man is removed, his only remedy is through the courts of law. "This," says Mr. Roosevelt,

> "is practically the position taken by Postmaster-General Wanamaker in reference to the persons in the Baltimore post-office who were accused of violating the civil-service law. Secretary Carlisle, moreover, is, as far as the commission now remembers, the first public officer who has ever taken the position that it is no violation of the civil-service law to discharge a man for political reasons."

The civil-service law provides a penalty of fine and imprisonment for any United States official who solicits subscriptions or contributions for political purposes from other United States officials, or who receives such subscriptions in a United States building, or who degrades or discharges any United States official for refusing to contribute, or who gives money to any other United States official for political purposes. But there is apparently no legal punishment for dismissing a United States employee for political reasons, although the rules prohibit it, and also declare that nobody "has any right to use his official authority or influence to influence or coerce the political action" of anybody in the service of the United States. It will

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thus be seen that if Secretary Carlisle chooses to disregard the rules, he is pretty well protected against everybody but the President and public opinion.

Mr. Josiah Quincy's reluctance to give his testimony before the Senate committee on printing, in connection with the scandal of the *Patent Office Gazette* contract, was fully accounted for by the admissions forced out of him on Saturday. In fact, we think he might have refused to testify at all, on the ground that no man can be compelled to incriminate himself. His testimony was tantamount to a confession that the charges made against him were true. He admitted that he had intrigued with the commissioner of patents, and used his official influence to get the contract away from a firm that had done the work efficiently for years, and to give it to a non-existent corporation, with a capital (on paper) of $300 and without any plant—all for the benefit of a man who was deeply in Mr. Quincy's debt. He also admitted that he had used his influence to secure the dismissal of an official of the Patent Office "on account of discrimination" against the company got up by Mr. Quincy and his friend—which is the elegant way of saying that he had had turned out an honest employee who was trying to prevent the Government from being robbed.

This record of a "gentleman in politics," certified to by himself, is a confirmation of the view, which is as old as Sophocles, that you can never be sure of the character of a man until you have seen it tested by his holding public office. Mr. Quincy defends himself in almost the same words as our wonderful Tammany street commissioner. Mr. Andrews is "not able to see" why he should not give a friend a fat contract for dumping garbage, and Mr. Quincy is not able to see why he should not get rich pickings for a friend out of the Patent Office. The sense of propriety and the official methods of the two men are, so far, on precisely the same level. And it is important to note, also, that this contract-jobbing of Mr. Quincy's is all of a piece with his office-jobbing. A man of his intelligence and previous professions going in unblushingly for the latter, as he did, excites no surprise when caught in the former. The two things are perfectly consistent in treating the public business as private spoil, and it would be just as logical for Mr. Quincy to pull a long face and argue that party necessity demanded contract-jobbing as office-jobbing. Indeed, at one time he seemed disposed to take that tack, and to assert that the exposure of his crookedness was "a blow at the Administration"; but he had the grace to drop that in his testimony on Saturday.

Congressman Dunphy's reasons for withdrawing from Tammany Hall furnish a striking picture of the inside workings of that institution as they were revealed in "Paddy" Divver's banner district at the last election. Mr. Dunphy says on one very interesting point:

> "My information is that to the election district giving the greatest majority to Maynard was to be given a $1,200 position; to the next best another position; to the next a gold watch and chain. In three separate election districts the entire registered vote was polled, and in these districts Maynard got every vote. Such a result was most startling, and was never known before in our district. Did the presence in our district of the regiment of tramps have anything to do with the enormous vote registered and polled? Were the offers of positions and expensive jewelry sufficient to induce election officers to do wrong? Did the acts or omissions of our election officers produce these wonderful results? Each person must answer these questions for himself. I have drawn my conclusions, and have resigned from my district committee."

These incentives to activity which Mr. Dunphy enumerates were the famous prizes which were said to have been offered by Divver as inducements for his workers to win the prize banner which Croker offered to the Assembly District rolling up the largest percentage of Maynard votes. After the election all Divver's followers were ready to declare under oath that they had never heard of these or any other prizes, their memories having been ruined utterly by a rumor that Divver was to be indicted for offering them. Divver himself, in the course of a sulphurous interview with a reporter on November 18, admitted the fact of the offer by declaring that he would give no information to a newspaper of such low character as the *Evening Post*, adding: "The prizes have not been awarded yet." Mr. Dunphy shows that one effect of the offer was to crowd the district with tramps and loafers before election, all of whom "disappeared like snow before the sun" after election.

The list of the convictions for electoral fraud recently obtained before Judge Barrett in this city is in many respects the most remarkable document which has ever appeared in a New York newspaper, because no such punishment for cheating at elections has ever been dealt out in this city before. There have been frauds on a considerable scale at every election for a quarter of a century, but never before have thirty-nine of the cheats been indicted, convicted, and sentenced. The honor of this achievement is mainly, if not entirely, due to the Bar Association. They appointed the committee to ferret out the frauds, and the committee employed and paid the counsel and collected the evidence which Mr. Wellman of the district attorney's office was able to turn to such good account. Moreover, of the special committee of four who did the actual work, three were Democrats. Of the thirty-nine cheats who were convicted, "Paddy" Divver was as "district leader" responsible for eighteen, and "Barney" Martin for nine. Paddy and Barney are both police magistrates—"the Lord be betune us an' harm," as Paddy would say. Paddy was recommended for this office by a President of the Board of Education and an eminent criminal judge, under the style and title of "the Hon. Patrick Divver." Paddy, who is more active than Barney, instigated the frauds—in fact, called for them—by offering prizes to his "heelers" for rolling up heavy majorities in his district. The first prize was to be "a $1,500 place, which the winner could take himself or give to one of his friends." The second was to be a gold watch and chain, and the third a silk banner. When the grand jury began to look into this matter, everybody forgot about the prizes; in fact, nobody had ever heard of them, and Paddy started for California. There is, in fact, to be a great gathering of Tammany riff-raff there this month. Why they go so far for their health it is difficult to make out, but their doing so has given rise to the report that they were running away from justice—which has naturally annoyed them a good deal. The reason why they are in special need of recuperation this year probably is that it has been an abnormally prosperous year, and they have guzzled far more whiskey and champagne than usual.

The passage of the "Greater New York" bill, in accordance with which the voters of the district which it is proposed to convert into the larger city will be given an opportunity to express their opinion on the subject, furnishes an issue of much interest for the approaching campaign. While there is probably considerable sentimental opinion in favor of the proposition, there is also a strong undercurrent of opposition, based upon the fear that the tax rate of New York will be greatly increased if Brooklyn and other outlying communities are added to ours. Brooklyn is at present taxed almost beyond the point of endurance, while our tax rate, owing to the city's enormous wealth, is very low. If New York is to be called upon to help Brooklyn bear its burdens, and to help others of the proposed suburban additions to make improvements, as opponents of the consolidation plan allege will be the result, then the voters of New York are likely to be timid about favoring the plan. As a whole, public opinion in this city at present is in an inchoate condition, little thought having been given to the matter except by the few persons who have been leading the movement. There is a great field for argument and discussion, for the voters will need to have much more light than they have

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at present in order to vote intelligently upon the matter.

The N. Y. *Times*, in castigating "certain friends of the higher education of women in this city" for meddling in the controversy about Radcliffe College, falls into a grievous error. They sent no "appeal to the Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women." They sent it only to the Harvard Overseers, and all they asked for was the full Harvard degree for graduates of Radcliffe College instead of one countersigned by the president of Harvard. That this of itself did any "harm to an excellent cause" probably never entered any one's head but that of the editor of the *Times*. What did the "harm," if harm was done, was the use of this petition before the Legislature by a certain "Society of Alumnæ," to prevent Radcliffe College getting its charter —something for which "certain friends of the higher education in this city" were no more responsible than the editor of the *Times*. The petition to the overseers of Harvard has been referred to a committee who will report on it in April, and we have no doubt that, if the money for Radcliffe comes in freely, as is expected, the prayer will be granted before very long. The opposition to the charter has, we believe, been based on the notion that it would postpone, instead of hastening, this result, but the friends of the charter maintain that it will hasten it, and are in thorough accord with those who desire the full degree for women. There was also opposition in some quarters on the ground that a college so slenderly equipped as Radcliffe ought not to have the power of granting degrees, but this was met last week by an agreement to grant no degrees without the approval of Harvard College. There is considerable diversity of opinion among the authorities of Harvard College touching the value of the countersigned Radcliffe degree; but we believe nobody is disposed to drive any of them into a corner on this point.

Mr. Astor has had a great triumph over his enemies in the matter of Mr. Gladstone's resignation. He announced it as impending some weeks ago, and the English papers all said the announcement was false, and was published to "boom" the *Pall Mall Gazette;* and some added, "How American!" He now shows that he was right and they were wrong, and "hurls back" their epithets. It is true he was correct, but the announcement was a very discreditable affair just the same. Mr. Gladstone was keeping his probable resignation secret because he naturally, whenever the time came, wished to make it known to his cabinet first. Some one in his confidence betrayed him, offered the news "exclusively" to various papers, and found none mean enough or credulous enough to accept it till he got to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. It is not a thing for a "gentleman in politics" to be proud of.

Mr. Gladstone is probably the readier to quit the scene of his trials and triumphs because with the passage of the home-rule bill he really considered that his work was done. For the new Radical fight with the Lords he is not prepared, and doubtless never thought of carrying it on, and "the Newcastle programme" never greatly interested him. He made no secret to his friends at the last election that what he sought office for mainly was the settlement of the Irish question; and his disappointment over the smallness of his majority was largely due to the fear that it would not suffice for this purpose. When the home-rule bill was passed in the Commons, his career was virtually closed. His attendance in the House has since then been less close, and his intervention in debate less frequent, and his attention to the new Radical measures more perfunctory. No more splendid figure has ever appeared in English politics, and not one has ever quitted it who will be more distinctly missed. The silly creatures who for twenty-five years have been defaming him now begin to see this themselves. The announcement of the *Times* that "the Commons will be profoundly changed by the withdrawal of his leadership," and will "sadly miss his restraining influence," coming from an organ which has been reviling him as if he were an old pickpocket, shows that English Conservatives are recovering their common sense in the presence of the new dangers. Gladstone has really been for many years a check on the advance of the "New Radicalism," which is the most formidable foe English institutions have ever encountered. It will be a great satisfaction, doubtless, to him and to his friends that this revulsion of feeling has occurred during his lifetime, and while he is still capable of enjoying such reverence and gratitude as no other statesman will probably ever receive, for the new democracy does not seem to cherish or build up great parliamentary reputations.

The advantage of having a man like Léon Say in the French Chamber was never more conspicuous than in the session of February 10, when he encountered the socialist Deputies in a sort of free-for-all debate, and left them, one after another, flat on their backs. The most deadly weapon in his hand was his repeated demand for definitions on the part of his adversaries, and precise details in regard to their social revolution. He excited laughter at their general phrases, like the one advanced by a certain solemn Deputy who defined socialism as aiming at "the generalized well-being of all classes of society" (Ely's "broad social standpoint"). Then another legislator, seeing the need, under M. Say's raillery, of being more definite, declared that what the socialists really meant to do was to abolish "the iron law of wages." This gave the trained economist a still better opening, and he soon had his opponent committed to the position that the iron law of gravitation should be abolished also. Thus he kept on bowling them over as fast as they came on, until their only resource was to shake their fists at him and try to hiss him off the tribune. But the president of the Chamber remarked that such intense lovers of freedom ought to respect the freedom of speech, and so shamed them into silence, while M. Say went on to tell them more wholesome truths than they had heard for many a day. Such puncturing of socialistic wind-bags is a work which is going to be often required in the near future, and we hope that the Sumners will keep right on letting the gas out of the Bellamys and Elys.

The discourse pronounced by M. Ferdinand Brunetière, on taking his seat in the French Academy two weeks ago, was, according to precedent, mainly a eulogy of his predecessor, M. John Lemoinne of the *Débats*, but contained also a good many sensible observations about journalism, with special reference to its modern developments. The orator contrasted the practice of 1840, when "journalists were not extemporized," and when men of vast attainments like Lemoinne and Littré were in the habit of knowing thoroughly what they wrote about, with the modern journalistic habit —"the deplorable, the alarming, the detestable facility in writing about everything without knowing anything." M. Brunetière had also hard things to say of the triviality and intrusiveness of the modern press, which can tell you all about "the furniture" of a writer, but nothing about his works, and which throws all its strength in the direction of what the readers of fifty years ago would have considered curious impertinences and frivolities. He also lamented the ravages of the reporter of to-day, who extorts "copy" out of his victims, and throws in a liberal assortment of inventions of his own. "This is what is called being very well informed." Still more of a rebuke to the complacent journalism of the present was Brunetière's assertion that "all the ideas on which we live to-day, and which go to make up the substance of contemporary thought, have come to us from the Kants and the Hegels, the Comtes and the Darwins, the Claude Bernards and the Pasteurs and the Taines and the Renans; while the press, after having begun, as a rule, by ridiculing them, has done nothing, or almost nothing, to develop or propagate them."

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THE SEIGNIORAGE BILL.

SOME persons may be inclined to take a despondent view of the passage of Mr. Bland's seigniorage bill in the House of Representatives. It is only necessary, however, to look backward a brief space in order to see how great a gain has been made in the interest of sound finance. Less than two years ago, *i. e.*, on the 24th of March, 1892, Mr. Bland was defeated by a majority of two votes only, on a parliamentary motion which had for its aim the free coinage of silver. The fight had been going on ever since the Fifty-second Congress assembled, and it was only by that narrow majority that Mr. Bland was defeated.

Little more than one year passed when the silver panic so long predicted hove in sight. The country was aroused and thoroughly alarmed. Public opinion demanded the immediate repeal of the Sherman act. President Cleveland called Congress together in extraordinary session and recommended such repeal. Before the vote was taken on that question, Mr. Bland offered an amendment providing for the free coinage of silver, and this was voted down, yeas 125, nays 226—that is, by a majority of 101; after which the repeal bill was passed by yeas 239, nays 109—a majority of 130. These votes were given last August by the same House which has now passed the so-called seigniorage bill.

The seigniorage bill is simply a tub to the whale. It enables members who were compelled by public opinion to vote for the repeal of the Sherman act, but who did so reluctantly, to say that they have got something in return. They can tell their Populist allies or enemies, as the case may be, that they are no longer empty-handed. Behold, we are coining silver. We are adding to the stock of money. Hurrah for us!

The bill has been changed since it was first introduced. It does not provide for injecting silver certificates into the currency before the corresponding silver can be coined. There is a certain amount of silver bullion in the Treasury from which a certain number of dollars of 412½ grains each can be coined. If it were all coined at this rate, $55,156,681 of them would belong to the Government; but under existing laws the Government must treat them as it treats its paper money, *i. e.*, keep them at par with gold. The seigniorage bill provides that this sum of $55,156,681 shall be first coined and "used in the payment of public expenditures." Then it authorizes the secretary of the treasury, in his discretion, to anticipate the coinage by means of silver certificates, provided that he shall not issue more than the sum which the whole seigniorage fund would amount to.

After this coinage is effected, the bill provides that the remainder of the bullion—that which theoretically belongs to the holders of the Treasury notes—shall also be coined, and that when any of the corresponding Treasury notes are taken in, they shall be cancelled and destroyed, "and silver certificates shall be issued on such coin in the manner now provided by law."

This is a very curious provision. Let us see how it would work in practice. The Government redeems a million of these Treasury notes in gold, or takes in a million at the custom-house and tax-offices. Then the law says they shall be cancelled and destroyed. How are silver certificates to be issued in place of them "in the manner now provided by law"? The only law on the subject is that of February 28, 1878, the Bland-Allison law, which provides that any holder of silver dollars may deposit the same in the Treasury and receive certificates therefor, and that the coin shall be retained in the Treasury for the payment of the certificates on demand. Now the silver dollars provided for in the pending measure are already in the Treasury. Nobody can deposit any of them, because they have never been outside of the Treasury a single moment, and could not lawfully be outside. The only workable part of this section of the bill is that which requires the secretary to cancel and destroy all of the Treasury notes of 1890 which come into his possession. This would not be a bad thing. Eventually all of these notes and all of the greenbacks must be retired. They are a bastard currency, and the sooner they are got rid of the better.

It is a great humiliation that such a bill should pass one branch of Congress. If it passes both branches, it will, we have little doubt, be brained by an Executive veto. Probably many of the members who voted for it, and who have thus made themselves "solid" with the Populist vote at home, will be glad to have it vetoed.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON McKANE.

THE great spectacle of McKane's march to the penitentiary, to which the morning papers gave from two to four columns, with copious illustrations, will be of little value if we overlook the fact that bosses are not autochthonous—that is, do not spring out of the ground without manure or culture. Consequently, when we put one of them in jail, we do not by any means rid ourselves of bossism. They are the product of a certain condition of the public mind to which we all contribute something. Some of us contribute more than others, but, taking us all together, we produced Tweed, Kelly, Croker, Gilroy, McKane, Paddy Divver, Tom Grady, and scores of others of the same breed. They owe their political existence to the community at large just as much as a child owes his existence to his parents. Tweed had, therefore, a fair right to complain of us as unnatural parents when we put him in jail. So has McKane to-day. We have let his rascality go on unchecked for several years, until at last he reasonably came to the conclusion that the writs of our courts did not run in his bailiwick. Both parties, as we have frequently observed, knew he was a cheat years ago, but both were ready to use him when the occasion came, and each crowed over the votes he illegally cast on its side.

We may say much the same thing of some other bosses. Croker and Gilroy are the heads of a far more formidable conspiracy against the public welfare than either Tweed or McKane ever was, but one of them "owned" the last Legislature and directed corrupt legislation by telegraph from New York, and Gilroy is mayor of the city by a majority vote. "Paddy" Divver, too, who has fled to California, leaving his followers in the lurch, undoubtedly concocted an extensive scheme of electoral fraud before the election, but "Paddy" was actually recommended for a judicial office by the president of the Board of Education and a judge of a court of record; and the Legislature to-day, seeing and knowing the kind of men he and "Barney" Martin are, leave them to administer "justice" to the poor. Can we wonder that the criminal class in this city to-day is bolder and more ambitious and more sure of its position than it ever was in any civilized city before, and feels more wronged when it is sent to the penitentiary?

The encouraging feature about McKane's case is that he is the first boss who has ever been locked up for electoral frauds, which, taken in connection with the wholesale convictions of the Tammany underlings, and the flight of the chiefs to various "warm springs" and mild climates, is a very cheering sign of the times. But these convictions do not go to the root of the evil. The root of the evil is the use of the vote of this city for federal purposes by the Republican party, and its readiness to "deal" with the local Democrats in local offices and in legislation. As long as these practices prevail, the return of the bosses is only a question of time. As long as the city cannot command the votes of its respectable and intelligent class at the election of local officers as long, in short, as the Republican party is ready to "sell the Governorship for the Presidency," and give Croker additional police justiceships or other offices in return for something "equally as good" for the Republican machine—we must expect a continuance of the system which produces Croker and McKane, and which will produce them hereafter as surely as mushrooms grow on dunghills. The very sight of Croker and Gilroy in high places ought to rouse a consuming flame of indignation; but they are really taken as the most natural thing in the world. It was absolutely impossible four (and two) years ago to

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keep the voters of the city from handing over the government and all its appurtenances, lock, stock, and barrel, to an organization which everybody you spoke to admitted to be a gang of thieves and reprobates, characterless, conscienceless criminals and adventurers.

If the defeat of Maynard, the conviction of McKane and of the election cheats in this city have the effect of showing the community what it can do if it tries, against the forces of crime and disorder, it will accomplish a most beneficent revolution. The courts have served the public faithfully and well. So have the prosecuting officers. More trying tasks than Mr. Tracy in Brooklyn and Mr. Wellman have had to perform it is difficult to imagine, and Judge Bartlett in trying the case, and Judge Cullen in reviewing it, and Judges Hardin and Barrett in refusing to review it, have all laid the State under great obligations. But they have labored in vain if public opinion does not give them a continuing support. Government by "uprisings" is unworthy of a free people. It may do very well for semi-barbarians, but surely a great commercial city like New York ought not to be the one such place on earth where cheats, thieves, and corruptionists are sure of a good living out of the public treasury.

CONGRESSIONAL APPLAUSE.

No little study has been given to the nature of theatrical applause, with the result that most critics are agreed in finding an element of deep mystery in it. They can do little but classify the sentiments and actions which infallibly bring the audible approval of the audience, without being able to assign any rational or æsthetic principle as the cause. Fine and subtle work by an actor may win him applause, but horse-play is certain to; neat epigram sometimes starts a ripple, but the most flaunting fustian always does; and the thing that invariably sets the thunder rolling from orchestra to top gallery is some such sentiment as, "The man who would put his hand upon a woman save in the way of kindness," etc.

Congressional applause has not had as much critical investigation, so far as we know, but its study yields as much to make the judicious wonder, if not grieve. A first difficulty which besets the inquirer is the question of the trustworthiness of the documents which make up the material of his study. Can he be sure that the thickly sprinkled "[applause]" in the pages of the *Congressional Record* corresponds to actual occurrences on the floor of the House? When an orator is revising his speech, may he not also revise the "[applause]"? Unsettling rumors have been afloat in relation to such practices, and it has been darkly hinted that the official stenographers of the House, when they find a speaker sticking close to the letter of the printed slips he has furnished them in advance, reward him for lightening their labors by being particularly acute of hearing in the matter of applause, so much so that they often mistake a slight stirring of their own feet for an enthusiastic outburst of the whole House. All this makes it necessary to apply the methods of the higher criticism, and compare newspaper reports with the veracious *Record*. Even here caution is necessary. The keen advertising instinct of Congressman Morse of Massachusetts once led him to telegraph his favorite Boston organ to add to the speech of his already in type, "Applause on the Republican side," though attentive observers on the spot noticed nothing but sighs of relief when the end was reached. Still, this was an exceptional case, and where we find, as we are able to, in many instances, newspaper accounts agreeing with the official report, we may be fairly confident that the material for studying congressional applause is sufficiently trustworthy.

But sift his material as carefully as he may, the patient inquirer will not be able to get much beyond his fellow-worker in the theatrical field in his attempts to decide what the real reason is for applause of the actors on the congressional stage. Certain general classifications of applause-compelling sentiment can be made. There is the patriotic sentiment, which no Representative with the eyes of the people upon him can neglect to applaud. Let the most plodding orator pause a moment in his monotonous career to remark that this is the greatest, strongest, freest, happiest, wisest, and most virtuous country God ever made, and the grateful uproar breaks out on both sides of the House impartially. Praise of our physical bigness, too, is sure of a flattering reception. Opening the *Record* by chance, we find Congressman Patterson of Tennessee declaring, on January 31:

> "The Mediterranean of Europe pales into insignificance compared with this our Mediterranean. For the fertile valleys which are drained by the rivers flowing into this great American sea surpass in extent and in variety of production all the fertile valleys drained by all the other navigable rivers of the habitable globe. [Great applause.]"

This is no great mystery, nor is the partisan applause which follows in the wake of party eulogy. Logical retort, in the shape of glowing predictions of a great party triumph at the next election, naturally rouses the associates of the speaker into rapture as great as the mortification with which it overwhelms his opponents. All this the investigator can understand, even while he mourns over it; but what is he going to do when he runs upon such a passage as this: "The farmers of the United States are annually robbed [great applause]"? Or this: "Every grant in the Constitution is stretched and distorted [great applause]"? Or this: "We contemplate the misery of our country [loud applause on the Republican side]"?

At first sight this looks alarmingly like applauding the villain of the play at the very moment when he is gloating over his victims. This, as every well-instructed theatre-goer knows, would be highly dangerous to public morals, and on no stage but the congressional would it be tolerated for an instant. The hypothesis might be advanced that the villany, open and unblushing as it seems, was yet veiled to the simple-minded auditors of the House, who applauded it, as Partridge did the acting of the *King* in "Hamlet," on the ground that any man so capable of concealing his real character, and of shouting so loudly, must be a transcendent actor. Narrower scrutiny, however, will show that the applause given such cold-blooded sentiments was of an exculpatory sort. Loudly to applaud the assertion that the farmers are robbed and the Constitution violated, is clear proof that you are not one of the robbers or the violators, as it is well known that they always hang their heads in shame on such occasions. And when the Republicans were so gleeful over the miseries of the country, they simply meant to insinuate that the way to give every man an office and diffuse peace and plenty at a tremendous per capita, was to give them a chance to enact some more panic-breeding laws.

One development of congressional applause every lover of his kind will deprecate, and that is the political-convention kind. This broke out at the close of the tariff debate in the House, and the rival cheers for Messrs. Reed and Wilson were like the insensate shouting and banner-waving at a national convention, designed to convince wavering delegates that the cat is going to jump this way or that. But the congressional cat is not frightened off the fence by such outcries, and the House should firmly resist this attempt to rob it of one of its last remaining semblances of rationality.

PUBLIC LOAN-OFFICES IN EUROPE.

THE public pawnshop in Bologna, Italy, recently received a bequest of over 300,000 lire. The incident attracted some attention locally because of the amount of the legacy, but none whatever because of the character of the legatee. The incorporation in New York of the Provident Loan Society with a capital of $100,000 attracts attention for an opposite reason. Compared with the wealth of its incorporators, the sum involved is trivial, but the purpose of the society is new here. This community, following the English example, has long regarded the lending of money upon any personal property except securities or other evidences of indebt-

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edness as a gainful occupation, much like any other. The incorporators of the Provident Loan Society take a different view, familiar enough upon the continent of Europe: they regard such lending as a form of charity. Licensed pawnbrokers, pursuing their trade for profit, are, indeed, common in Italy and in Germany. But the endowed *monti di pietà* in the former country and the municipal loan offices in the latter as a rule set the tone in the poor men's money market almost as completely as does the Bank of England in the money market of the rich.

Public loan-offices in Europe are almost invariably conducted on business principles. They are self-supporting. A surplus, however, is the signal for prompt lowering of the rate of interest. Consequently they lend cheap. In New York the legal rate of pawnbroker's interest on loans of less than one hundred dollars is 3 per cent. per month for the first six months, and 2 per cent. per month thereafter; in other words, 30 per cent. per annum. And this rate is exacted. In Prussia the maximum rate permitted upon loans of less than $7.50 is 2 per cent. per month; upon larger loans, as upon all loans in France, it is 12½ per cent. yearly. The actual interest is frequently lower, and, in general, pawnbrokers' loans are probably made on the Continent at less than half the rates which prevail in New York. Whether, on the other hand, the amounts advanced upon pledges of like value are on the whole larger there than here, may well be doubted. A general comparison is difficult to make, since conditions vary not only with the nature of the article pawned, but also with the place. For example, the unredeemed pledges sold by the public loan-offices in Belgium during the year 1890 brought in for their former owners 27 per cent. more than the amount loaned upon them, with accrued interest; whereas the Paris *mont-de-piété* lost over five thousand dollars by valuing articles too high. Upon household furniture and upon clothing, save the most expensive, the American pawnbroker, when he accepts them at all, advances very little, partly, no doubt, because of the uncertainty of their value, partly, too, because of the expense of storing them for more than a year before the law allows them to be sold. Upon such articles Continental loan-offices are, so far as an observer can judge, more liberal in their advances.

A curious result of this liberality is, that, in parts of southern Germany and of Italy, many of the wage-earners keep their best clothes regularly in pawn, redeeming them the evening before Sundays and other holidays and returning them the morning after. The amounts lent upon ordinary clothing in New York are too small to encourage this peculiar method of realizing upon idle assets. But upon valuable jewelry, and especially upon diamonds, sharp competition apparently forces the American pawnbroker to advance a larger proportion of the price which a dealer would pay for them out and out than could be obtained at the majority of public loan-offices in Europe. Indeed, many managers of such offices purposely refuse to make advances upon gems to the full limit of safety, holding that, in such cases, moderate undervaluation helps to secure the ultimate redemption of the pawn.

It is not unusual for Continental offices, especially before advancing any considerable sum upon a pledge, to demand some certificate of good character from the person offering it. The organizers of the Provident Loan Society likewise plan, it is reported, to require from each would-be borrower the recommendation of some charitable organization. This requirement may exclude the drunkard and the spendthrift from the society's offices, but so long as thousands of commercial pawnshops remain open, it will not diminish pawning for the wherewithal of a spree. Your low-class drunkard is no provident fellow. A few per cent. more interest will not deter him from pawning anything pawnable, nor will a few per cent. less entice him to more frequent dissipation. In short, the proposed requirement will diminish very little if at all the amount of undesirable pawning. Meanwhile there is danger that it may lessen the usefulness of the society to those classes whom the society most desires to serve. The proud needy—and in time of depression such are especially numerous—know well that with the commercial pawnbroker they stand on a business basis. He may drive an extortionate bargain—but a bargain it is, not alms. The society's requirement gratuitously thrusts in their faces the fact that at its hands they are the recipients of charity; and many of them will avoid the society in consequence. This may seem fanciful, but it is not; experience bears it out. At the royal pawnshop in Berlin, which lends to all comers, there were, according to an investigation made in October, 1890, among 3,000 borrowers 626 widows and spinsters and 234 artists, students, civil officials, and officers, a large proportion of whom would have shunned direct public relief. Even as it is, many Berliners are believed to avoid a personal visit to the pawnshop, and it is by no means singular for a *Dienstmann*, who must be paid at least twelve cents for the service, to be employed to bring in a pledge upon which but a dollar or two is lent. On the other hand, those loan-offices (and there are not a few of them in various Continental cities) which loan to approved persons without any interest whatever, find nevertheless relatively few frequenters—a fact that must be explained rather by the sensitiveness than by the unworthiness of the needy.

The public loan-office has, as compared with commercial pawnshops, certain indisputable advantages. It conceals no "fences." It lowers pawn interest. It effectually limits the number of pawnshops. The German industrial census of 1882 reports for the city of Berlin 155 establishments, public and private. Dresden, a larger city than Buffalo, had in 1890 but 23. Thus, while municipal pawnshops, by their low rate of interest, protect the needy from extortion, their small number prevents the extended abuse of their privileges by the idle and the vicious. To pay next year at the rate of 30 per cent. is, for the indolent, a less present evil than to carry a bundle today for thirty blocks or for half that distance. The results of fewer pawnshops are plain. Berlin had in 1890 a population of over a million and a half. In that year 236,949 articles were pledged in the loan-offices, perhaps twice or thrice as many more in various private pawnshops. In the inner circle of London, with a population of about three and one-half millions, there were, according to the report of the Commons' committee on pawnbrokers (1870), over thirty million articles pawned. Similar statistics for New York are not at hand, but there can be no doubt that the swarm of pawnshops which crowd the poorer parts of the city by their very number and accessibility contribute largely towards keeping those parts poor.

Relief from the abuses of the pawnbroking trade may, however, be secured by another and safer channel than that of municipalization. That a score of private citizens should come forward at this time of need to undertake a public duty for whose performance German and Frenchman alike look to the state, is significant not alone because of the direct philanthropic value of their act, but also because of its broader aspects and implications. If the competition of the Provident Loan Society results, as it eventually may, in lowering pawn interest and in reducing the number of pawnshops in this city, its incorporators will have succeeded in much more than their first intent: they will have given a conspicuous and intelligent exhibition of a spirit of individualism in the best sense American.

THE SITUATION IN ENGLAND.

It has been settled that, Lord Rosebery being prime minister, Sir William Harcourt will act under him as leader of the House of Commons. There is no one else in the Liberal party in the House who is fit for this latter place, and it is also safe to say that there is no one at all quite fit for the former at the

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present crisis. Sir William Harcourt is not quite trusted by the Radicals, his conversion to their doctrines being somewhat recent, and it being well known that he never had much heart in home rule. But the most serious obstacle in his way is the badness of his manners, which is in these days, when there are so many sensitive men of low degree in the House, very important. Mr. Gladstone was the pink of courtesy to everybody, gentle and simple, young and old, and he finds on this point a worthy successor in Lord Rosebery, who is cheery, good-humored, humorous, and democratic in his ways. It is a serious loss to the party to have him in the House of Lords. Lord Kimberley has been an excellent colonial secretary, and will probably make just as good a foreign secretary, as long as the object is to keep the peace.

But the cabinet changes, except the filling of Mr. Gladstone's place, are unimportant compared to the probable attitude of the Irish and extreme Radicals towards his successor. The existence of the ministry depends on the Irish. Gladstone was an enthusiastic advocate of their cause. His heart was wholly in it. No one who succeeds him is likely to take it up so seriously—certainly not Lord Rosebery. His speech in the House of Lords on the home-rule bill showed that the whole Irish question was somewhat of a puzzle to him, if indeed he did not consider it wholly insoluble. Mr. John Morley, too, is tired out, as any man must be who tries to administer Ireland from Dublin Castle and at the same time sit in the House of Commons. He has not answered all the expectations of the Irish, especially in the matter of the evicted tenants, but they had faith in him and, therefore, patience with him. Whether these things will last under his successor, and especially under Gladstone's successor, is open to doubt. The Parnellite section of the Irish are already beginning to push the rumor that home rule will now be dropped, and shout, "I told you so."

There is one consideration, however, which is likely to keep them quiet for a considerable time. The House of Lords is now the main, if not the only, obstacle to home rule. There is little doubt that the bill could be passed again in the Commons without much difficulty. The rejection of it by the Lords did not rouse the English Liberals against the Lords, which was a great disappointment to the Irish. It showed, however, that there were very serious limits to English enthusiasm on that subject. The treatment of the parish-councils bill and the employers'-liability bill by the Lords has done what their treatment of the home-rule bill failed to do. It has made the reform or abolition of the Lords a question of practical politics, and inserted it in the Radical programme.

It would be madness for the Irish to interrupt this movement against the upper house by the overthrow of the Liberal ministry, and they are not at all likely to do so. There are various things, short of the abolition of the upper chamber, which would bring the Lords to reason. One would be a simple resolution of the House of Commons denying their right to veto bills. This would probably reduce their rôle to that of simple revisers, without much trouble. The practice of rejecting bills would drop into desuetude without one specific abrogation, just as the practice of hearing legal appeals by lay lords has dropped into desuetude. They might all sit and vote on legal appeals, but they never do it; it is left to the law lords. Another plan of reform is the abolition of hereditary succession and the election to the House of Lords for life by the whole body of peers, as the Irish and Scotch peers are now elected; but this would not get over the difficulty of the persistent Toryism of all peers. No matter what changes may occur in public opinion, or how large the Liberal majority in the lower house may be, the Lords remain always overwhelmingly Conservative, and pass with alacrity all bills of whatever character sent up to them by a Conservative Ministry, and as unfailingly throw out all Liberal measures sent up by a Liberal Ministry. The system of election by the peers themselves would not change this. If a second chamber is to be preserved, nothing will satisfy the Radicals but some mode of changing the composition of the upper house directly or indirectly by the popular vote. The house might still be composed of peers, but they would have to be peers who owed their seats to popular election. This would probably end in filling that house with new creations on account of some kind of previous distinction, thus making it a body somewhat like the Roman Senate. The sovereign would make a man a peer, but it would remain with the people to make him a legislator.

However the question may be settled, it is probably going to be the question of the day, and the one which will keep the Irish in the Liberal ranks. They, more than Englishmen, have to complain of the Lords. There are very few of their grievances which, during the past fifty years, the Commons have not made some attempt to redress, and which the vote of the Lords has not kept standing.

THE LIGNEROLLES LIBRARY.

PARIS, February 15, 1894.

THERE was a Lignerolles among the companions of Henri IV. His last descendant, Comte de Lignerolles, who died last year, acquired a great reputation in the small world of the bibliophiles. He was himself a bibliophile *par excellence;* he was never married, he had a good income, and his income was spent almost wholly in the acquisition of rare and choice books. He devoted his whole life—a long life, as he was more than seventy years old when he died—to making a library which is now being sold at auction. There has always been in Paris a certain number of book-collectors. There is a society called "Société des Bibliophiles Français," which holds regular meetings and which occasionally publishes a book; its honorary president is the prince of bibliophiles, the Duc d'Aumale. Baron Jérôme Pichon was long its acting president; now M. de Villeneuve is. A younger society, called "Les Amis des Livres," has since its origin been presided over by M. Paillet, son of a famous lawyer and himself a magistrate at the Court of Appeals; the Duc d'Aumale is also honorary president of this younger society, which publishes illustrated works that have acquired some reputation.

M. de Lignerolles belonged to the elder society, and was one of its most important members. He was to be seen in all parts of Paris where a bookseller is found, especially on the quays of the Seine. He read all the catalogues; he did not disdain to rummage in those wooden boxes which the *bouquinistes* fill with all the rubbish of old books and pamphlets they can lay their hands upon. He was very modest, very learned, extremely cautious. He had a separate apartment for his immense library, and he very seldom allowed anybody to see his treasures. Nobody ever knew to whom he gave his commissions in a public sale; he had all the passion of a man who keeps a hoard.

This treasury is now under all eyes; the library collected during so many years with such care, such labor, and kept with such vigilance, will be sold in three separate parts. The first part is already sold; it was the portion of the library consecrated to "manuscripts, theology, jurisprudence, sciences, and arts." The manuscripts were chiefly old "Horæ," executed on vellum and adorned with miniatures. One of these volumes bears the arms of Philip V., King of Spain. Among later manuscripts, a very high place is always given to those which were written in the seventeenth century by Nicolas Jarry; this remarkable artist has never been equalled. I must mention also a "Vision of Tondal," a manuscript executed for Margaret of York, Duchess of Burgundy, the wife of Charles the Bold. The "Vision of Tondal" was analyzed by Thomas Wright in his 'St. Patrick's Purgatory,' published in London in 1844.

It is difficult to analyze a catalogue, and I will enumerate only a few of the most interesting works collected by M. de Lignerolles. The 'Office de la Semaine Sainte,' presented by Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette to the Princesse de Lamballe, was one of the finest jewels of his collection. He bought it many years ago for the sum of 2,000 francs, and it was sold on February 1, 1894, for the sum of 30,000 francs to an agent, it is said, of M. Ferdinand de Rothschild of London. This precious relic was given to Mme. de Lamballe, with these lines inscribed by Louis XVI. on a flyleaf: "Madame my cousin, to-day is your fête-day. I beg you to accept this book, which came to me from my mother, in which I learned to pray God. I pray to Him for you. He blesses your virtues"—signed "Louis." Beneath these lines are a few more in the hand of Marie Antoinette: "My dear heart, I also will speak to you of my utter friendship on this occasion. I come after the King, but I am in the same rank in my friendship for you. My children also love you. We all pray to God on our

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knees for your happiness. The children know well, my dear Lamballe, that you like to look upon them as if they were your own, and you are in their prayers as well as in their hearts." A long autograph letter of Marie Antoinette to Mme. de Lamballe, on the subject of her mother's death, and a few lines from the King, had been added to this 'Semaine Sainte,' but the dedication was enough to give it a very high value.

Books which bear the arms of Marie Antoinette (France and Austria) have attained a very great value since the time of the Second Empire. The Empress Eugénie contributed more than anybody to increase their price by becoming a collector of all the relics of the unfortunate Queen. She had a notion that she would perhaps some day have the same fate—a notion which has fortunately been contradicted by the facts, as the Empress Eugénie comes to Paris as often as she likes, and nobody has ever shown the slightest intention to interfere with her liberty. The library of Marie Antoinette has been catalogued, and this catalogue has been published; it is a singular mixture of serious books and of the light novels of her time. We find in M. de Lignerolles's library a volume of 'Prières et Instructions Chrétiennes,' and 'L'Esprit de Nicole,' with the arms of the Queen.

A very interesting volume is an 'Imitation of Jesus-Christ' bearing the arms of Henrietta of France, Queen of England, the wife of Charles I. On the binding is the device, "Honi soit qui mal y pense." An interesting autograph letter of Henrietta to Cardinal Mazarin has been inserted in the volume. It is dated December 10, 1645, and written from St.-Germain:

"My Cousin: Having received a letter from the King my Lord, I send it to you by Firmin, as I feared that a journey as sudden as mine would excite some suspicion in our friends and enemies if I carried it myself, since it is to ask some succor in our last extremities, as you will see in the letter which I send to you. I will not press you on any particular point, as you know well enough our necessities and have sufficiently manifested to me your disposition to assist us. What I will do is to show the state to which the King my Lord is reduced, and ask your advice, etc."

There have always been ladies among our most celebrated bibliophiles, and their books are very much disputed in the public sales. None rank higher than those of Mme. de Maintenon. M. de Lignerolles had a precious copy of the 'Imitation of Jesus Christ,' translated by the Abbé de Choisy (Paris: Antoine Dezallier, 1692). This copy, which bears the lion of the D'Aubignés, has, besides, a note: "This book was given to Mlle. de Gentil La Jonchapt [Mme. de Rutant] by Mme. de Maintenon." This edition has become very rare. In the second book there is an engraving representing Mme. de Maintenon praying in the chapel of Versailles, with the words "Audi, filia" in a ray of light coming from heaven. The courtiers, who knew what followed—"quia rex concupiscet carnem tuam" (these words, of course, did not appear in the engraving)—made merry over this singular illustration of a religious work. Most of the copies were afterwards suppressed, and in the succeeding editions this engraving does not appear. At the head of the dedicatory epistle to the King there is a small vignette representing the chapel of Versailles.

We find another work with the arms of Mme. de Maintenon, the 'Instruction Pastorale' of the Archbishop of Paris, Louis Antoine de Noailles, on Christian perfection and inner life, written against the "false mystics" at the time of the great struggle between the Jesuits and the Jansenists. We find, also, and this is certainly one of the most precious books in the collection, a copy of the original edition of "Esther," written by Racine for the demoiselles de Saint Cyr, at the request of Mme. de Maintenon; her own copy with her arms.

Among the best bound books we know are the books of Mme. de Chamillart; they are always invariably bound in olive morocco trimmed with red morocco. Her arms are always inside on the lining. She was the wife of Chamillart, a great favorite of Louis XIV. and of Mme. de Maintenon. Saint-Simon does not speak well of her intelligence, but admits that she was a good woman. She has become one of the idols of the bibliophiles. M. de Lignerolles owned her copy of Pascal's 'Provinciales' (the eighth edition only), her copy of Fontenelle's 'Entretiens sur la Pluralité des Mondes,' her copy of the works of Corneille in ten beautiful volumes.

Among other books which belonged to illustrious ladies, I may cite 'Les Soliloques, les Méditations de St. Augustin,' the copy of the Duchesse de Bourgogne, and Bossuet's 'Politique tirée de l'Écriture Sainte,' with the arms of Marie-Éléonore d'Este, daughter of Alphonse d'Este, Duke of Modena, the wife of James II. There are several works bearing the joint and crowned monograms of Louis XIII. and of Anne of Austria, a 'Life of Christ,' a theological work under the title of 'Fleurs des Exemples,' and "Célestine," a sort of tragi-comedy, by Jacques de Lavardin. M. de Lignerolles possessed several other books of a royal origin. The 'Livre singulier et utile,' a work on astronomy and geometry, printed by Simon de Collines in Paris in 1543, is a magnificent volume, which bears the royal crown, the salamander (which was the emblem adopted by Francis I., and is everywhere to be found in the château of Fontainebleau), and the crowned F. The style of these bindings of the time of the Valois has never been surpassed. Grolier, for instance, had a large number of books, but their ornamentation was never the same; you cannot find two identical bindings of this celebrated collector. They all, however, have the inscription, "Grolieri et amicorum," and many have, besides, "Pars mea sit in terra viventium." The finest Groliers are in our great public libraries. M. de Lignerolles had but one, the 'Catullus, Tibullus, et Propertius' of Aldus, 1515, a copy in an excellent state of preservation. Henri III. had admirable binders and a very curious and large collection of books. We find in M. de Lignerolles's collection his 'Treatise on the most Holy Communion,' with the usual ornaments of his books, the death's head, the holy women at the foot of the cross, and the device, "Spes mea Deus." Henri IV. had not much time to collect books; the few which have been left bearing his arms are extremely dear. M. de Lignerolles had one, which is a perfect jewel, with its original binding in white vellum, all covered with golden fleurs-de-lis, and with the double arms of France and Navarre. This volume is a 'Recueil de quelques vers amoureux,' by Bertaut, who was one of the favorite authors of the King.

So far, we have only two volumes of the catalogue. The second volume, which has more than two thousand items, is devoted entirely to belles-lettres. The third volume will embrace all the works, pamphlets, and documents which concern history. M. de Lignerolles was among those who understood early the great value, for the history of France, of those numberless small *pièces* which were printed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and of which the "Mazarinades" are a type. These *pièces* were really the press of the time; they are the echo of all the prevailing passions; they give us the true color of an age which has too often been studied in the light of modern ideas. It is almost a pity that a collection made with so much care and bound at such expense by M. de Lignerolles should be dispersed, and should not have been kept as a whole in one of our public libraries.

Correspondence.

NO QUORUM.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: Alluding to the fact that the House of Representatives passed the month of February in futile attempts to get its own members to come in and vote, the *Nation* of the 1st inst. asks this question:

"Why is it that in the one legislative body [Congress] there is this frequently recurring condition of affairs, and that in the other [the Legislature of New York] it never exists?"

I have propounded the enigma to a number of intelligent persons in this city without receiving one satisfactory reply. The explanations attempted were mere suppositions: that the rules were different; that the Legislature, being a small body, there were few if any absentees, etc., etc. If some of your New York readers would propound the question to a hundred intelligent New Yorkers, *who have not read the article above referred to*, and publish the result of their replies, it would enable us to judge whether even the thinking part of the community have ever noticed a difference between majority and minority legislation. N.

Washington, March 2, 1894.

SCOTT'S FIRST LOVE.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In the March number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, in commenting upon the recently published 'Letters of Sir Walter Scott,' a contributor says: "It is strange that any attempt should be made to keep up the mystery connected with Scott's first love." Is it to be expected that the children of Lady Ann Scott will unveil it? It was not only a mystery but a tragedy which altered Scott's whole life, and made possible its sorrowful close. Whoever wishes to see her beautiful face and learn what the Forbeses are willing to tell, will find it in the 'Life of Principal Forbes of St. Andrews,' published a few years since.

If I could remember as completely and satisfactorily as I can forget, I could give you the minutest details of the story, but of what follows I am sure. Coming out of church in Edinburgh one summer's day, Scott found himself confronted by a heavy shower. After his canny fashion, he had his umbrella under his arm; but near him, under the porch, stood a delicate young girl, thinly dressed and entirely unprotected. It was supposed that the shower would pass, but the rain grew heavier and heavier. They had chatted as they waited, and at last Scott timidly offered her his umbrella. It was discovered that their paths lay in the same direction, and his offer was accepted on condition that he should himself carry it. On the way it was discovered that the mother of Scott and the mother of the lady had been intimate friends in their early life, but had lost sight of each other. This natu-

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rally led to further intercourse, which continued for about three years. Scott was infatuated from the first, and always believed he should win the lady, until the appearance of the man she married. She hesitated long, but finally decided as we know. In a fit of mingled pique and pride, Scott hastened away, and offered himself at once to the young French girl whom he hardly knew, having danced with her once at a ball.

I learned these particulars (and I have them in writing) from a dear friend, who had been also the friend of Scott, of the Forbeses, and of the whole set to which they belonged, as well as Dr. Brown and "Pet Marjorie." Many are the precious letters that I have read touching on this matter.

It was the opinion of the whole circle that Scott's impetuous nature needed precisely the balance that this lady would have given it. If he had married her, Abbotsford would never have been built, and his sweet and cordial nature would never have known the tortures of bankruptcy. The steady and tender affection which Scott gave to his wife, to whom he had told the whole story in the beginning, and the magnanimous assistance and sympathy given to his first love's husband after her death, never failed to elicit from his old friends a half-indignant admiration.

CAROLINE H. DALL.

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1894.

A BRACE OF WHIMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The following significant question, proposed by a critic writing from California, appears in the issue of the *Educational Review* for last October:

"What good results in teaching English, pure but not affected, and easy without slovenliness, can be looked for from young women who say *I wished I was home*, and *at all?*"

"I wished I *was home*," as a phrase of familiar discourse, is, far from infrequently, English which no well-informed person will censure. Though "I *was home* all last week" is not to be tolerated, yet, except in purposely formal language, there is no objection to such an expression as "I *was home* by sunset," for "I *reached home* by sunset," or "I *am home* again," return home being intended. That expressions more or less similar to these have long obtained could be shown by many quotations besides those hereto subjoined:

"He *is home* to his fadir." John Pampyng (1470), in *Paston Letters* (1872-'75), vol. ii., p. 403.

"The Erle of Northomberlonde is *hoome* in to the Northe." Sir John Paston (1472), *ibid.*, vol. iii., p. 39.

"He expected *to be home* this last Spring." "My dear brother *has* now *been home* these three weeks." Miss Frances Burney (1769), *Early Diary* (1889), vol. i., pp. 56, 61.

"We *shall be home* in five minutes." "I . . . asked Mrs. Selwyn if we *should* not *be* late *home*." *Ead.*, *Evelina* (1778), chapters xxi., lxiii.

"Sister, . . . we *shall be* dark *home*." Mrs. A. M. Bennett, *Juvenile Indiscretions* (1785), vol. i., p. 47 (ed. 1786).

"He informed him . . . that he *would be home* to dinner." "They were informed . . . that he intended *being home* to dinner." Anon., *History of Ned Evans* (1796), vol. i., pp. 196, 222.

"Assuring her . . . that Mr. Fitzroy *would be home* in a short period." Mrs. M. Pilkington, *Celebrity* (1815), vol. ii., p. 202.

"I think it very probable I *shall* not *be home* by Easter." Cardinal Newman (1832), *Letters* (1891), vol. i., p. 285.

"Peter Young . . . talked of *being home* in three weeks." "Peter Young *is home* again." Rev. John Keble (1854), in Sir J. T. Coleridge's *Memoir*, etc., pp. 404, 409 (ed. 1869).

"I *shall be home* by midnight." Rev. F. E. Paget, *Owlet of Owlstone Edge* (1856), p. 190.

"The deceased gentleman *had* not *been home* all night." London *Daily News*, Jan. 1, 1894, p. 6, col. 6.

These quotations are additional to ten of like character, one of them being from Dr. Johnson, which I brought forward in the *Nation*, No. 1294, dated April 17, 1890.

But not only when it is connected with the verb *be*, implying motion, and in many such phrases as "go *home*," "strike *home*," etc., is *home* an adverb:

"I wolde have it *hoome* for my suster Anne." Sir John Paston (1476), in *Paston Letters* (1872-75), vol. iii., p. 166.

"They do not onely not call themselues *home* & turne to a better mynde. nor yet be pacified and appeased," etc. Anon., Trans. of *Erasmus Paraphrase* (1548), *John*, fol. 57 *v.*

"The captaine of the isle had them *home* vnto his house." Rev. Richard Hakluyt, Trans. of *Galvano's Discoveries of the World* (1601), p. 126 (ed. 1862).

"These . . . swore for Cæsar, and swore the Matter *home*." Rev. Edmund Hickeringill (1681), *Works* (1716), vol. i., p. 191.

"My Father then told me, he would send for my Brother *home*." "At Fourteen, my Father sent for me *home*." Miss Sarah Fielding, *Adventures of David Simple* (1744), vol. i., p. 266, vol. ii., p. 100 (2nd ed.).

"Send for your daughter and son-in-law *home*." Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones* (1750), Book vii., ch. x.

"How did we come *home* by it, think you?" T. L. Peacock, *Melincourt* (1817), ch. xxix. Here, apparently, is an Irishism.

"I have been writing to Bertha and her Sister concerning their return, wishing to have them *home* before I start for the south." Robert Southey (1825), *Letters* (1856), vol. iii., p. 481.

"The hydropathic system . . . rather seems to be constructed for the special benefit of Indian officers *home* on leave." *Saturday Review*, vol. xiv., p. 480 (1862).

"Sigvald and the Vikings prepared to see him *home*." Sir G. W. Dasent, *Vikings of the Baltic* (1875), vol. i., p. 230.

The *Standard Dictionary*, now coming out, has, under the adverb *home*, as its signification: "To or at home; as, let us go *home; home* at last." But, besides that "*home* at last" is thus explained inadequately, the definition given of its *home* would authorize the phrase which has been characterized above as not to be tolerated.

The omission of a preposition, as in "to *stay dinner*," a locution which lasted more than two hundred years, but has lately gone out of fashion, I have dwelt on elsewhere. And it is worth mentioning that, as might have been expected, since the intransitive *stop* acquired the sense of "stay," some writers, like the author of a novel before me, have used "to *stop dinner*," meaning "to *stay to dinner*."

In the same category with these shortenings is "to *stay home* from school," which is probably heard equally often in England and in the United States. No one, it may be presumed, would commend this way of speaking; and yet what is now a mere vulgarism, "to *keep home*," though unrecorded by all lexicographers known to me, enjoyed good repute in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and was not wholly obsolete in the literature of the eighteenth:

"See that you *keepe home* nowe in my absence." Richard Bernard, Trans. of *Terence* (1598), p. 144 (ed. 1607). The Latin is: "Domi adsitis, facite."

"True zeale loues to *keepe home*, studieth to bee quiet in other mens Dioces." Rev. Samuel Ward, *A Coale from the Altar* (1616), p. 14 (ed. 1627).

"The Citizens which *kept home*, vnderstanding what slaughter was made of their Friends and Neighbours, shut their doores," etc. Maxwell, Trans. of *Herodian of Alexandria his History*, etc. (1629), vol. i., p. 43. Also in vol. i., p. 178; vol. ii., pp. 60, 71. The original of the passage cited has *οἱ ἐν τῇ πόλει μείναντες*, that of two of the places referred to, *οἶκοι*, etc., and *νῦν ἡσυχάζουσιν* for "are now glad to *keepe home*" (vol. ii., p. 60).

"Poland . . . in the mean time *kept home*, had an eye to the main chance, and defended Europe against forrein invaders." Rev. Dr. Thomas Fuller, *Historie of the Holy Warre* (1639), p. 267 (ed. 1647).

"For his particular, therefore, he would not come [printed *some*] there, as having more reason to *keep home*, and provide against the Rebellions and Mischiefs," etc. Lord Herbert (died 1649), *Life and Reign of King Henry the Eighth* (ed. 1683), p. 488.

"Do you *keep home?*" Laurence Echard, etc. Trans. of *Terence* (1694), p. 75 (ed. 1729).

"Though you *keep home*, you do not much 'tease the housewife's wool.'" *Test of Filial Duty* (1772), vol. i., p. 158.

Ward, in his homily already quoted, writes, in p. 56, "Wee professe, *keepe* our *Church*, heare Sermons, as Christians ought to doe"; and we have *keep house*, etc. With respect to "*keep* home," our ancestors, although they used also "*keep at* home," regarded the idea of being attentive to and that of restricting oneself to as near enough akin for one and the same word to convey both. Instead of *keep on one's feet*, 'be able to stand,' we at present optionally say, though by ellipsis, *keep one's feet*, as also *keep one's bed* for *keep to one's bed*, and so on. But the old *take one's bed*, for *take to one's bed*, *take one's heels or legs*, for *take to one's heels or legs*, and *take the water*, for *take to the water*, could hardly have been felt to be elliptical.

After these protracted details, the reader will, perhaps, require to be reminded that the second of the whims under notice is the cashiering of the phrasal adverb *at all*.

According to the philology of popular ignorance, with Mr. William Mathews, LL.D., as its mouthpiece:

"*At all* is a needless expletive, which is employed by many writers of what may be called the forcible-feeble school. For example: 'The coach was upset; but, strange to say, not a passenger received the slightest injury *at all*.' 'It is not *at all* strange.'" *Words: Their Use and Abuse* (1876), p. 347.

When and where English like "swear not *at all*" was ever the exclusive property of "the forcible-feeble school" of writers, we are not informed by Dr. Mathews. Whether there are any grounds for his estimate of it, one not unusual, certain of the annexed quotations will suffice to suggest:

"As to your brother, I have really no anger against him *at all*." Fielding, *Tom Jones* (1750), Book i., ch. xii.

"There may be some minute differences in the dress of the spectators, but none *at all* in their understandings." Goldsmith, *Citizen of the World* (1760), Letter lxxxvi.

"I was not tired *at all*, either last night or to-day." Dr. Johnson, *Letter*, June 22, 1771.

"I am ready to kill any one of you *at all*." Robert Bage, *Barham Downs* (1784), vol. ii., p. 44.

"Neither can I *at all* doubt that, if you were to tell me," etc. William Cowper, *Letter*, Dec. 7, 1785.

"The legislator, . . . who knows nothing *at all* about the matter," etc. Jeremy Bentham, *Defence of Usury* (1787), p. 36 (ed. 1816).

"He from that time ceased *at all* to mention an affair which before appeared to occupy his whole attention." Mrs. Hughes, *Henry and Isabella* (1788), vol. i., p. 51.

"Without *at all* excluding a principle of improvement." Burke, *Reflections*, etc. (1790), p. 48.

"Such is the proneness of all strong feelings, whether good or bad, that the progress from any one passion to any other seems to be quite as easy and natural as the progress from tranquillity to passion *at all*." Rev. Sydney Smith, *Elementary Sketches of Moral Philosophy* (1804-6), p. 339 (ed. 1850).

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"It must surely be absurd to apprehend a preponderance of evil from works which cannot act *at all*, except," etc. Coleridge, *The Friend* (1809-10), vol. i., p. 95 (ed. 1818).

"One could not arrive *at all*; another, not till near day-break." Southey, *Life of Nelson* (1813), vol. ii., p. 174.

"Still the main question is, whence he derived his expectation that this wonderful infant would *at all* appear." Rev. G. S. Faber, *Horæ Mosaicæ* (ed. 1818), vol. i., p. 79. "It may be expected that I should say something as to their right to be considered Churches *at all*." *Id.*, *An Inquiry*, etc. (1838), p. 553.

"Do I complain of that masquerading? Not *at all*." De Quincey (1823), *Works* (ed. 1863), vol. xii., p. 101, foot-note.

"But it is not *at all* wonderful they should be moved in a certain form." Thomas Taylor, *Fragments of Proclus* (1825), p. 14.

"Has he interfered *at all* in the events of ages past?" Bp. Hampden, *Parochial Sermons* (1828), p. 23.

"Detached, did I say? No, not detached from the church *at all*." W.. S. Landor, *Letters of a Conservative* (1836), p. 17. "He had no right to be there *at all*." *Id.*, *Letters of an American* (1854), p. 60.

"I do assure you that, if it were not on your account, I should have already given up writing for the Review *at all*." Lord Macaulay, *Letter*, Jan. 18, 1843. "Here, in June, 1783, he had a paralytic stroke, from which, however, he recovered, and which does not appear to have *at all* impaired his intellectual faculties." *Id.*, *Samuel Johnson* (1856).

"As life advances, and we find in how small a degree our happiness depends upon the sympathy of our acquaintances, the difficulty is to care for it *at all*, or to take any pains to seek it." Rev. Dr. W. Whewell (1847), *Life*, etc., by Mrs. Stair Douglas (1881), p. 337.

"Their want of faith absolutely hindered them from *at all* comprehending the words of faith." Rev. John Keble (1851), *Occasional Papers and Reviews* (1877), p. 253.

"His appearance *at all* during the summer is not an act de rigueur in this part of the world." Lord Dufferin, *Letters from High Latitudes* (1857), p. 337.

"Wilt thou send *at all* a man to tell him of the slaying?" Sir G. W. Dasent, *Story of Burnt Njal* (1861), vol. i., p. 116. "I only mention him *at all*, because you cannot know everything about me, unless I tell you a little about him." *Id.*, *Half a Life* (1874) vol. i., p. 4. "One of them died before he was *at all* old." *Id.*, *Tales from the Fjeld* (1874), p. 160.

"What do I know of substance or matter? Just as much as the greatest philosophers; and that is nothing *at all*. Cardinal Newman, *Apologia pro Vita sua* (1864), p. 375.

"The most complex of all sciences, the Social, had not, he maintained, become positive *at all*." J. S. Mill, *Auguste Comte and Positivism* (1865), p. 51.

"A tutor *at all* equal to the tutors of a good pension is a costly luxury, if one has him all to oneself." Matthew Arnold, *Schools and Universities*, etc. (1868), p. 68.

"But, when we come to Chaucer, we hardly find it *at all*." Rev. Prof. John Earle, *Philology of the English Tongue* (1871), p. 154.

"There is little or no evidence of his having existed *at all*." Rev. Charles Kingsley (1874), *Lectures delivered in America* (1875), p. 112.

But enough has surely been said to tempt the question how many books of fair compass are not likely to furnish instances of the occurrence of *at all*.

As to several of the passages which have been adduced, the uses of *at all* seen in them are now laid aside, or else are rare otherwise than colloquially. In the remaining passages, however, *at all* may be exchanged, according to circumstances, for *whatever*, *in the least*, *in any degree*, *to any extent*, *anything*, *by any means*, *in any way*, or *in any case*. None of these is "an expletive"; and no more is *at all* one. And are "he is not *any* better" and "I am *somewhat* pleased" expletival?

In presence of the fact that erroneous notions touching what is permissible in writing and speaking are widely prevalent, and are, indeed, not seldom inculcated by those who, their pretensions considered, should not be infected by them, a letter such as this is not to be looked on as expending paper and ink to no practical purpose. For the rest, even the amplest of our dictionaries admit, here and there, of being supplemented by discussions of matters which, by reason of their necessary limits, they are debarred from treating exhaustively. F. H.

MARLESFORD, ENGLAND, February 10, 1894.

Notes.

ROBERT CLARKE & Co., Cincinnati, have in press 'Recollections of Life in Ohio, from 1813 to 1840,' by William Cooper Howells, with an introduction by his son, William Dean Howells; 'Queen Moó and the Egyptian Sphinx,' by Dr. Augustus Le Plongeon; a reprint of J. Ralston Skinner's 'Key to the Hebrew-Egyptian Mystery in the Source of Measures,' originally published in 1875; and 'Judaism at the World's Parliament of Religions,' a collection of papers read at Chicago.

J. B. Lippincott Co. announce 'Travels in a Tree-top,' by Dr. Charles C. Abbott; 'Bill Nye's History of the United States'; 'A Man of To-day,' by Helen Mathers; 'The Mystery of the Patrician Club,' a novel by Albert D. Vandam, author of 'An Englishman in Paris'; and 'Pain,' by J. Leonard Corning, M.D.

G. P. Putnam's Sons will publish directly 'The Natural Law of Money,' by William Brough; 'The Sphere of the State; or, The People as a Body Politic,' by Prof. Frank S. Hoffman of Union College; and 'The Story of Margrédel.'

E. P. Dutton & Co. have nearly ready a new and entirely revised edition of Archdeacon Farrar's 'Life of Christ.'

Harper & Bros.' March issues include 'The Jewish Question'; 'Our English Cousins,' by Richard Harding Davis; 'For Honor and Life,' by William Westall; and 'Life's Little Ironies,' by Thomas Hardy.

From Charles Scribner's Sons we are promised 'The Letters of Two Brothers, William T. and John Sherman,' edited by Mrs. Rachel Sherman Thorndike; a Life of Dr. J. G. Holland, by Mrs. Thomas F. Plunkett; 'Beyond the Rockies,' by Dr. Charles A. Stoddard; 'According to Season,' a discourse of wild flowers, by Mrs. William Starr Dana; Mr. Robert Bridges's ("Droch") literary studies in dialogue form reprinted from *Life*; 'Salem Kittredge, and Other Stories,' by Bliss Perry; and 'On the Offensive,' a new army novel, by George I. Putnam.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have in preparation 'Bayou Folk,' by Mrs. Kate Chopin; 'Brave Little Holland,' by the Rev. W. E. Griffis; and 'A Bird-Lover in the West,' by Olive Thorne Miller.

'By Moorland and Sea,' description and illustrations, by F. A. Knight, will be published by Roberts Bros.

'Dramatic Essays' is the title of a series of three volumes to be edited by Messrs. William Archer and Robert W. Lowe, and published in London by Walter Scott. They will relate—the first two to Leigh Hunt and W. Hazlitt respectively, and the third to John Forster, G. H. Lewes, and William Robson (the "Old Playgoer"); and much of the contents of all three volumes will be matter not hitherto collected. A fourth volume, containing the late Matthew Arnold's contributions to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, also signed "Old Playgoer," is to be desired; and a fifth would be welcome if devoted to early American theatrical criticism—Irving's, John Howard Payne's, and Dana's—in the *Idle Man*.

The *form* of the 'Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta' (J. Selwyn Tait & Sons) is not that to which the public at large is entitled in the case of a private person. The history and the character, instead of being delineated firmly and consistently by one hand, are left to be inferred from the more or less vague and constantly repetitious tributes of friends, supplemented by letters to and from the deceased and by selections from her writings. Such as it is, the volume conveys a glimpse of a New York literary salon in the Knickerbocker period, presided over by an authoress sufficiently learned, and sufficiently versed in the practice of art, and possessed of social tact, conversational powers, and kindness of heart. The chief incident of the life is Mrs. Botta's founding of a prize to be awarded by the French Academy for an essay on the elevation of woman, which was rendered completely nugatory by the scruples of the Academy. Her losing of the Clay gold medal intrusted to her, and its strange discovery (but not recovery) in Switzerland, was painfully romantic. There are a few characteristic letters from Mrs. Child, Fanny Butler, Fitz-Greene Halleck, N. P. Willis, Frederika Bremer, Henry Giles, and others. Mrs. Botta's best piece of verse is to be found not among the selections, but on p. 138.

'Among the Matabele' (Fleming H. Revell Co.), by the Rev. David Carnegie, is a timely and interesting account of the last of the independent races of South Africa. It is the result of observations made during ten years' missionary labor among them, and contains simple but clear descriptions of their distinctive customs and beliefs. They have apparently no religious conceptions, an idol or fetish being unknown. There is, however, a curious festival of the first fruits, suggestive of some ancient ritual, which must be celebrated before any one dares to eat green food. The children make huts and sheepfolds out of white pebbles, "but their principal toy is pot-clay from the valley, with which they make for themselves mud oxen." A boy's first real work is herding sheep and goats, of which he is very proud; then from twelve to sixteen or eighteen he cares for the cattle. He then is enrolled in one of the regiments, where he serves for four years before he is permitted to marry and settle down. The principal occupations of this people, besides cattle-herding and raiding, are the smelting of iron and making of spears and shields, wood-carving, and basket-making—this last by the women only. The land is described as very fertile, yielding two crops a year if properly cultivated, and better adapted for Europeans to live in than any other land south of the Zambesi. A discouraging account is given of the progress made in civilizing and Christianizing the Matabele, but one great obstacle has been removed in the overthrow of Lobengula, who would not allow his people to buy wagons, ploughs, spades, or agricultural implements of any kind. An excellent portrait is given of this king, together with one of his great rival, the well-known Christian chief Khama. In a closing chapter the Rev. G. Cousins tells the romantic story of the life of this most remarkable of native Africans of the present time.

Dr. A. Schäffle's essay on 'The Theory and Policy of Labor Protection' has been translated, and is published in this country by Charles Scribner's Sons. The Von Berlepsch bill, which was brought in by the German Government in order to carry out the recom-

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mendations of the Berlin Labor Conference, is inserted in the appendix. Dr. Schäffle limits his subject to "the moral and personal security of the wage-earner . . . in so far as the dangers which threaten his security arise out of the condition of dependence of the worker" in his service relations; and of course has in view the compulsory measures of Government intended to guard against these dangers. This special protection has become necessary "through the development of the factory system, with its merciless exploitation of wage-labor, and through the weakening of the patriarchal relations in workshops and in handicrafts." The author develops his system with German thoroughness, but is much hampered by the difficulty of maintaining that monarchical despotism is good while democratic despotism is bad.

A commendable practice exists in the Wharton School of Finance, connected with the University of Pennsylvania, of studying the institutions of municipal government as they are found in operation in the city of Philadelphia. As the result of these studies in 1893 the members of the senior class prepared essays upon the different departments of the city government, and these essays have been condensed and published by the university in a volume of 300 pages.

M. Cherbuliez's 'Un Cheval de Phidias,' one of his earliest ventures, is a delicate and discriminating piece of criticism, set in a species of Platonic dialogue, with modern variations, which students of Greek art will read with profit and delight. It has been translated by Mrs. Thomas Roberts, and is for sale at John Wanamaker's. The style is flowing and agreeable, rising quite successfully with the more enthusiastic flights of the original. But the translator ought to have had some old pedant at her elbow to save her from certain absurd footnotes, to nudge her when she wrote Patcht for Pasht, Gnide for Cnidus, Météque for Metic, etc., and to warn her when she slurred some choice idiom or boldly leapt what she did not understand. Such a high-barred fence occurs in the sentence from Rabelais about those noble gentlemen of Thélème who knew how to speak five or six languages, "et en iceulx composer, tant en carme qu'en oraison solue"; this last is heroically rendered, "and to compose a prayer as well as a Carmelite." She ought also to have taken into her confidence her groom, who would have given her useful points in equine lore, as, for example, that short-jointed horses are liable not to "balk" but to stumble. But the easy-going reader will not mind these slips one bit; and the other kind of reader may be charmed into visiting M. Cherbuliez in person, and learning how delightful he is *chez lui*.

Hachette & Cie. issue in book form the first eight lectures on "L'Évolution de la poésie lyrique en France au dix-neuvième siècle" which M. Brunetière delivered last winter at the Sorbonne. The seven other lectures which complete the course will form a second volume, soon to appear. These lectures were published, as delivered, in successive numbers of the *Revue Bleue*, and were then somewhat enlarged, footnotes especially being added with a liberal hand. Further additions, all of value, have been made to them before publication in book form, and analytical *en-têtes* and a table of contents added. The lectures are admirable—that is a matter of course—and are, like all M. Brunetière's work, full of interesting matter and food for reflection. His dogmatic manner provokes the healthiest kind of discussion; and the lucidity of his arguments, the directness of his assertions, and the unmistakable affirmation of his position make him a critic appreciated equally by those who differ from him and by that numerous class of readers who like to take their opinions ready-made from some great authority. And these cannot have a firmer and, with slight reservations, a better or greater authority than M. Brunetière.

In the two volumes of Moltke's 'Briefe an seine Braut und seine Frau und an andere Anverwandte' (Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlagsanstalt), we have a complete collection of the interesting letters which were printed, in part, in the sixth volume of his "Gesammelte Schriften." The first volume contains the letters from 1841 to 1856, and the second those from 1857 to 1890, thus covering a period of nearly half a century. The illustrations consist of a facsimile letter and two portraits, namely, Marie Burt as Moltke's betrothed, and, at a much later period, as his wife.

Dr. Emil Reich, privatdocent of philosophy in the University of Vienna, delivered during the winter of 1891-'92 a course of lectures on æsthetics in which he gave an historical survey and critical analysis of Ibsen's dramas from 'Catiline' (written in 1848, when the poet was only twenty years of age) to 'Master-Builder Solness.' These lectures have now been issued in a volume of nearly 300 pages, entitled 'Ibsen's Dramen: sechzehn Vorlesungen' (Dresden: Pierson). The author does not conceal his ardent admiration for the Norwegian dramatist, but at the same time does not permit his enthusiasm to pervert his judgment or to find expression in mere encomium. The work combines in an excellent manner biographical narration with literary criticism, and furnishes unquestionably the fullest and most accurate account of Ibsen's intellectual growth and evolution and of the peculiar character and purpose of his plays hitherto published.

Heinrich Seidel, whose "Gesammelte Schriften" have been published in ten handsome and handy volumes at Leipzig by A. G. Liebeskind, is a civil engineer by profession and a novelist by mental predisposition. He is endowed in a high degree with the genius of the story-teller, and possesses what so many German writers of fiction lack, a clear and simple style and a rich fund of genuine humor. His "Collected Writings" consist chiefly of short tales of real life, told with the inimitable "art that nature makes." They are about sixty in number, and the scenes are laid in Mecklenburg, where Herr Seidel was born, and in Berlin, where he has spent the greater part of his manhood in the pursuit of his profession. They are charming pictures of middle-class life, intermingled with idyls of the country and the seacoast (one of which, 'Hans Peiter Semmelmann,' is written in the dialect of his native province), and form a highly entertaining as well as thoroughly wholesome literature. The seventh volume is made up of serious, humorous, and satirical poems.

We have received specimen numbers of the *Bibliothèque d'Éducation Artistique*, published by the Librairie de *l'Art*. They are well-made reproductions of Japanese drawings, taken from old books, of flowers and plants, and of birds. Other numbers to follow will deal with animals and with fishes. The variations of style in them, from the most severe classical line to the splashiest of brush-work, and from heraldic-looking monsters to the most realistic nature studies, are interesting, and will, perhaps, prove surprising to many. How much a clever Japanese artist can get out of a humble carrot or other vegetable is well shown once or twice.

Mr. Henry C. Lea contributes to the *Yale Review* for February an article upon the "Ecclesiastical Treatment of Usury." It is hardly necessary to say that the vast store of learning at the author's command enables him to present a complete summary of the doctrine of the Church upon this subject, as well as a review of the expedients by which the stringency of this doctrine has been relieved. Partly in defiance of clerical prohibition, partly by the connivance of confessors and higher authorities, interest appears to have been pretty regularly collected by the faithful, and even by the officers of the Church themselves; and with a decorous hypocrisy the clergy have derived a revenue through dispensations and indulgences —the cost of it all presumptively being paid by the borrower. The maxim *Nulla vestigia retrorsum* has been adhered to, and the prohibition of usury is still maintained; but, as in the case of another prohibitory statute, the Church is now "in favor of the law, but against its enforcement."

In July is to open at the Palais de l'Industrie, in the Champs-Élysées, an international exhibition of books and of the industries pertaining thereto, under the auspices of the Paris Publishers' Club. The commissioner for the English and American sections is M. Gaston Rebours, the representative in France of *Scribner's Magazine*. Lord Dufferin has accepted the Presidency of the Paris English Committee of Patronage, and the American committee is headed by the U. S. Ambassador to France, while among those who have been invited to serve on it are Messrs. Henry Vignaud, General Meredith Read, Theodore Stanton, Henry Harrisse, Henry Bacon, etc.

We have received from C. Klackner, No. 7 West Twenty-eighth Street, a proof on Japan paper of Mr. Frank French's large wood-engraving after his own picture called "Spring." A comely damsel with a dreamy expression stands holding in her arms the plunder of the blossoming dogwood grove behind her, beside a brook. The composition is in every way pleasing, and has been engraved in a light tone with Mr. French's well-known skill and delicacy. This print is one more evidence of the admirable persistence with which the masters of an art that is in serious danger of succumbing to the competition of mechanical processes, are seeking recognition and possible salvation by the production of works of a scale and excellence rivalling the best metal engraving. Mr. French's *genre* takes its place beside Mr. Victor Bernstrom's strong "Pirates' Haven" landscape and G. Kruell's incomparable portraits.

—An important article in the *Atlantic* for March concerns education, a field in which the magazine has long shown a special and appropriate interest. The subject is timely at a moment when all bodies or individuals that have to do with secondary education are earnestly discussing the report of the so-called Committee of Ten. Of this somewhat intricate document Prof. Butler gives a lucid summary, bringing clearly to the front its more important recommendations and the effect they are likely to have on methods of instruction in this country, and comparing the scheme as a whole with those in use in France and Prussia. To sum up Prof. Butler's summary of what is in itself a summary of the converging views of experts on education may seem unnecessary, but we have not seen elsewhere so clear a statement of the three important conclusions we draw from an examination of the report: that it provides for a sound and sufficiently uniform

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secondary education, that the plans recommended conform in general with the most rational of those adopted by other civilized nations, and that they are based largely on the humanities. The same number contains a brilliant little essay attempting to show that there is a physiological and philosophical reason for what has sometimes been considered accidental—the fact that women have never attained success as composers. The author maintains that this is because women, being really less deeply emotional than men, and constitutionally abhorring the abstract, are incapable as a sex of originating musical ideas, which are the height of the abstract and the emotional. It is odd to find, a few pages further on, an interesting analysis by Maurice Thompson of the secret by which a woman—Sappho—attained supremacy in the cognate art of poetry.

—So far as matter other than fiction goes, the *Century* seems at first glance merely a collection of pretty pictures and gossipy accounts of foreign life and New York architecture. A closer examination, however, reveals matter of more permanent value. Mr. Mason's critical study of Grieg is written with a skill that musicians rarely show in literary composition. Mr. Flynt's description of the city tramp throws light on the systematic mendicancy of a permanent and conservative class of rascals, whose nickname of tramp has perhaps helped to earn for them hospitality or aid that might rightfully be claimed by an unfortunate wayfarer, but not by a professional beggar. Further extracts from lectures of Lowell's, this time on the Imagination, enhance rather than lower his reputation as a critic, for his work was at its best when he was not under the necessity, as in a critical article, of sticking closely to a single subject. Last in place, but most interesting and important, come Prof. Jenks's account of the suppression of political bribery in England, and Dr. Gladden's vigorous exposing of the absurd anti-Catholic crusade aroused by secret political societies in some parts of the West. It is by spreading far and wide such sound and non-partisan ideas in politics and government that an American magazine may best win lasting honor.

—*Harper's* is more than usually rich in excellent illustrations. In the text the first place is given to another of Mr. Brander Matthews's "vignettes" of New York life, in which the author betrays so much of the keen observer that it seems almost a pity he should not cease to perplex us in them by an artificial ghost of a plot, and draw directly from life. "Trilby" continues its wayward course, becoming somewhat less interesting as it approaches direct psychological analysis, and Mr. Gibson contributes a nondescript article on the "Welcomes of the Flowers," beautifully lucid in explanation and illustration of the intricacies of cross-fertilization, but exasperatingly sentimental in its forced attribution of distinctly human moods and feelings to brutes and plants. Striking articles are Mr. Poultney Bigelow's autocratic utterances on the subject of the Russian Jew, and Dr. Prudden's compact exposition of the contagious character of consumption.

—The contents of *Scribner's* have a unity of their own, for, almost without exception, they deal with American subjects and with nothing else. Mr. Joel Chandler Harris writes charmingly about the work of relief, after the recent hurricanes, among the curious population of the Sea Islands; Mr. Cable continues his "John March, Southerner"; "Octave Thanet" sketches vividly various types of the Northern farmer, and other writers treat such peculiarly American products as the cable-car and the tall office-building. This latter abomination is vigorously defended against all detractors, whether they be devout Ruskinians with their dogma of sincerity, Beaux-Arts men with their dogma of design, or modest individuals who do not like to seek near the skies for what belongs by nature near the earth.

—Nothing more damnatory of intercollegiate football has appeared than the article on "The Abuses of Training," by a graduate of 1891, in the *Harvard Graduates' Magazine* for March. It stands next after Mr. L. F. Deland's recipe, "How to Reform Football," in which excess of training is not so much as hinted at. Intelligent parents will draw their own conclusions. Timely interest also attaches to Mr. J. B. Warner's temperate exposition of the growth of the Harvard Annex and its blossoming into Radcliffe College. Prof. Morgan lucidly describes the mounting of Terence's "Phormio" in Sanders Theatre for the performances on April 19, 20, and 21, with an express new prologue by Prof. Greenough and original musical accompaniment by Prof. Allen. Fourteen students will take part in the play, and the occasion promises to rival in interest that of the "Oedipus" a dozen years ago. A libretto containing the Latin text beside a new prose translation will be ready in the course of next week, and places must be bespoken before March 25 if alumni wish to avail themselves of the precedence granted them over the public at large. The present number of the *Magazine* is noteworthy also for the memorial articles—one on Francis Parkman, by Mr. James Schouler, the historian of the United States, and the other on the lamented Frank Bolles, whose posthumous contributions to the chronicle of the second quarter include a decided protest against the latest development of football. Each article is accompanied by an excellent portrait. The review of Asa Gray's, Lowell's, and Phillip Brooks's letters is written with an independence of the *Magazine's* environment that is most commendable; but this would have been difficult if the writer's signature had been obligatory, and the instance is a good one of the advantages of anonymous criticism in matters literary.

—The resignation of the Pope Professor of Latin at Harvard, George Martin Lane, after a service to the college covering forty-three years, is an event out of the common. The admirable traits which have endeared this scholar to two generations of alumni will naturally cause regret that his active teaching is to terminate, by his own choice, with the present college year. This sentiment will, however, be agreeably modified by the announcement that the Corporation have voted Prof. Lane an allowance of $3,000 per annum as Professor Emeritus, with liberty to teach as the spirit moves him. This is, we believe, the first instance in which the Corporation has made fitting provision for a retired professor, and the precedent is therefore most important and gratifying, not only for Harvard but for all the colleges affected by her daily example. The prizes and pensions established in other callings and professions are non-existent for the teacher, whose middle life is often embittered by the dread of what is to befall him and his family when his working days are over. That Prof. Lane's treatment is not likely to be exceptional would appear from the Treasurer's Report, which shows a retiring allowance fund of some $280,000—an increase of nearly $13,000 over last year. No doubt, too, when the system takes effect, specific bequests will flow in to increase this fund. It is a pleasure to add that no infirmity has led to Prof. Lane's withdrawal. We may, therefore, hope that, from the scholarly point of view, his new leisure will be productive in a way heretofore impossible amid the cares of recitations and examination papers.

—A Society of Illustrators has just been organized in London. The wonder is that one was not instituted sooner, for the close competition in English illustrated journalism and the prevailing low standard, which is the outcome of the average English editor's preference for cheapness, have made such an association eminently desirable for some years past. The object of the society is to accomplish for illustrators what the Society of Authors is supposed to do for writers, *i. e.*, to protect their interests and defend their rights, lending them the strength that always comes from union. All the most distinguished black-and-white men in the country have already joined it, and as it is hoped to give the organization something of an international character, it ought to appeal to Americans as well as to Englishmen. The main objects are reduced to four heads. First, there is to be an endeavor to insure the making of contracts and agreements between editors and illustrators, such as are now made between editors and authors, and to allow the illustrator some share of responsibility in the reproduction of his work. Secondly, there will be an effort to amend and perfect the present artistic law of copyright, which is still in the haziest and vaguest condition, and thus to place some restriction upon the indiscriminate traffic in *clichés*. Third, to take in hand the publication of illustrated catalogues of current exhibitions, in order to do away with some of the abuses from which the artist suffers under the present system. And, fourth, to hold occasional shows of the drawings of the great illustrators, and gradually, by such reminders of what good work is, raise the art to the dignity it once enjoyed. Surely, these are legitimate and important ends, with which every intelligent editor and publisher, as well as artist, must be in sympathy.

—The appointment of a successor to Sir Frederick Burton, who is about to resign from his post of Director of the National Gallery in London, is just now agitating the English art world. The appointment lies with the premier, and the two candidates between whom, virtually, choice must be made are Mr. Poynter, the Royal Academician, and Mr. Sidney Colvin, keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum. There are others, it is true, but they are mainly dealers in disguise who pose as art critics, or else foreigners, and their claims need not be considered seriously. Some Englishmen have found the chief objection to Mr. Poynter—it would be difficult to point out his special qualifications—to consist in the fact that he is a painter, while, so it is argued, an archæologist really is needed to fill worthily such a position. But this is rather a far-fetched reason. Mr. Poynter is not only a painter, but a member of the Royal Academy. To make the National Gallery a mere annex to Burlington House is a consummation devoutly to be avoided. Moreover, as the Tate Gallery of modern British work is to be under the control of the director of the National Gallery, this is a more legitimate reason for opposition to the appointment of Mr. Poynter. The Chantrey collection at South Kensington

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explains but too plainly that it is to their own pictures academicians give the preference when they are purchasers and pay at somebody else's expense. On the other hand, Mr. Sidney Colvin has already acquitted himself remarkably well in somewhat similar posts, first at the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge, and then at the British Museum. In both places, however, he has had comparatively small opportunity, since the funds at his disposal have not been large. He would do wonders, his friends say, had he the chance. This may be, but the fact remains that his genius has still to be put to the test. However, there is not in his case, as in Mr. Poynter's, any positive objection; of the two candidates, he is by far the more promising. Whether Lord Rosebery will think so is another matter.

—During the past year there has been no dearth of German books treating of the United States, and, in the main, they have been of a superior quality. Besides the second edition of Prof. Friedrich Ratzel's 'Politische und Wirthschafts-Geographie der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika' (Munich: Oldenburg), we have Friedrich Oetken's 'Die Landwirthschaft in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika' (Berlin: Parey) and Gustav Diercks's 'Kulturbilder aus den Vereinigten Staaten' (Berlin: Verein für Deutsche Literatur). Herr Oetken, who prepared himself for his elaborate and exhaustive work by a sojourn of two years in this country, has already published a volume containing a record of his travels ('Reise eines deutschen Landwirths durch die Vereinigten Staaten'), and another giving his impressions of our school system ('Ueber die Schulen in den Vereinigten Staaten'). In his latest and largest volume he traces the agricultural and economical development of the United States, and treats at length of soil, climate, price of land, products, stock-raising, dairying, horticulture, forestry, implements of husbandry, roads, buildings, the domestic and social life of the farming population, schools, taxes, immigration and American women, who, he declares, "hold unquestionably, as regards both their physical and mental endowments, the highest position among the women of the earth." Dr. Diercks's volume is essentially an expansion of his vade-mecum, 'Ein Jahrhundert nordamerikanischer Kultur: Ein Begleitbuch für die Chicago-Besucher' (Berlin: Lesser). It is interesting and instructive; but on the whole he is a less keen as well as a less sympathetic observer than Herr Oetken, and is too apt to draw general conclusions from superficial knowledge. Another work in process of publication is 'Amerika, eine allgemeine Landeskunde,' edited by Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Sievers, in collaboration with Dr. E. Deckert and Prof. Dr. W. Kukenthal (Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut). It will be issued in six numbers at one mark (25 cents) each, and contain 180 illustrations, twelve maps, and twenty wood-cuts and chromolithographic plates.

RECENT FICTION.

In the Dwellings of Silence. A Romance of Russia. By Walker Kennedy. Dodd, Mead & Co.

A Motto Changed. By Jean Ingelow. Harper & Brothers.

Rachel Stanwood. By Lucy Gibbons Morse. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

It does not seem, on the face of things, unreasonable to demand that people shall refrain from writing on subjects of which they know nothing. Nevertheless, the demand must be unreasonable if we are to judge from the persistent stream of books written on that plan, with which the long-suffering public is constantly afflicted. The latest example is furnished by Mr. Kennedy's story of Russia and Siberia, entitled 'In the Dwellings of Silence,' which is evidently founded on inaccurate study of Mr. Kennan's utterances, a plan of St. Petersburg, and a map of Siberia. After remarking, by way of general criticism, that the style is forced and "spread-eagle," let us proceed to a somewhat detailed consideration of the evidences of ignorance which adorn the pages from the very beginning. George Vandorn and Frank Devereux, American consul and American secretary of legation at St. Petersburg, where they have lived for two years, are dressing to go to a court ball at the Winter Palace on January 14, 18—. "Through the offices of the United States minister they had secured invitations. It was an unusual concession, and, democratic though they were, they were not a little elated over their success." Owing to the wealthy and respectable ancestry of Vandorn, which is narrated at some length, "it had not been a difficult matter for the United States minister to obtain for him an invitation to the Czar's ball." As to this it may be remarked: (1) that the secretary of legation, having a sort of diplomatic right to such invitations, could not have remained for two years in the country without receiving a goodly number without the intervention of the minister; (2) that the consul, having no diplomatic rights, might have remained in the country for fifty years, and no intervention of the minister would have secured them for him; (3) January 14, American style, would be the day after the Russian New Year, and impossible for a ball; January 14, Russian style, might well be the date of a ball, but the ball would certainly not be of the sort known as the "palm-tree balls," which the author attempts inaccurately to describe.

The young men set out for the palace in a troïka; in real life they would go in a closed carriage. They pass "drozhkies, sleighs, and troïkas"; drozhkies and sledges are not used simultaneously on such a night as is described, viz., a genuine winter night, with snow. The topography of their drive to the palace is nothing less than bewildering. Setting out from some hotel in the Sadovaya (there is no hotel there which foreigners ever patronize, if there is one at all), they pass the Anitchkoff Palace on the "Prospekt Nevskiy," which lies to the southeast behind them, while they are going northwest, reach the Admiralty, are driven "about it" by the *izvostchik*, who would be a *yamstchik* in real life, and come out on the quay. This route involves about three-quarters of a mile extra in circuit, when a simple turn to the right at the head of the Nevsky Prospekt would bring them to the palace in a moment. The author next proceeds to place the famous equestrian statue of Peter the Great "where the Court of the Admiralty opens," with his hand pointing "towards the great city." The former Court of the Admiralty was filled with buildings years ago; the statue in question stands and has always stood well beyond the left wing of the building, in a park, and the hand points away from the city.

At last they reach the palace, where "drozhkies and sleighs were arriving every minute." Drozhkies, even if used in winter, would not be allowed to drive up, and open sleighs are never used by ladies on such occasions as represented. As "burlaks" are the men who towed barges on the Volga in former days, and the name is unknown in Petersburg, the author is hardly justified in introducing them for "local color" and in representing them as stamping about outside the palace with the drivers to keep warm. Inside the palace his descriptions are equally inaccurate. He clothes the lancers in crimson jackets and the hussars in green; introduces hussars of the army and of the guard; dresses the Empress's pages in white, and so forth. He is equally happy in his delineation of the beauty of the heroine, Valérie Melnikoff: "Her dark eyes were the faithful mirror of herself; they were pure and beautiful, and in their depths dwelt the icons of gentleness and strength." We should like to know what the author understands by *icons?* His French remarks are as incomprehensible: "These people are very *mal à propos.* They do not know how to conceal." The proper plural of *gendarme*, a favorite word of his, seems to be quite beyond his reach.

From these specimens of ignorance and inaccuracy the reader can judge how much dependence he may place on the facts or fancy of the narrative, which is not of much account. Valérie Melnikoff takes Frank Devereux to an evening meeting of "Nihilists." The use of this designation proves the author's information to be second-hand and of ancient date. She is arrested the next day, and Devereux, who loves her, swears to follow her to Siberia, if she is exiled there, and rescue her. Vandorn promises to help him. The rest of the book is merely the record of the escape. For his notes of Valérie's and Devereux's journeys in Siberia, Valérie's residence at the mines of Kara, and so on, all of a shadowy nature, the author seems to be indebted to Mr. Kennan's volumes. For the incidents of the escape, Vassily Tadmorski's uncontrolled roamings and marvellous stores of palatable provisions in inaccessible mountain fastnesses, he is evidently responsible himself, as he is for the absurd picture of the "Nihilist" skating daily on the Neva opposite the bastion where Valérie is imprisoned in the beginning, for the statements that Tiumen is situated on the Volga, which runs to Tomsk, that a solitary man can dance a *khorovod* (a choral dance), and other choice absurdities. Of course, the whole party makes good an escape to America across the Pacific, and so the little story ends. The one good point about it is the ingenuity of Devereux's and Tadmorski's devices at critical moments during the perilous journey. There is no study of character, no special interest attaching to the unsubstantial figures of Devereux, Valérie, Vandorn, or even the villain. It is a book to be forgotten as soon as read, so manifestly is it made out of an unintelligent compilation from the untested writings of other people, to meet a supposed demand for sensational literature on Russian topics.

It is difficult to decide what sex, age, and stage of mental development Miss Ingelow expects to interest with her little tale, whose title is as forced as is its conversation. The motto is: "A little less than kin and more than kind." It would take the powers of a soothsayer to divine it from the story. Isabel Larkin, a plain-featured young woman, aged twenty, is followed about and wooed by a former pupil of her father, who has caught sight of her by accident, after a lapse of years, and fallen violently in love with her. She does not like him and avoids him, carrying her stern sense of duty to the extreme (as she considers it) of wearing her second-best, least becoming hat, lest he should be too much impressed with her charms. Her father is entirely opposed to

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the match, and tells the young man so, his reason being that he does not wish to have his daughter seem to inveigle the son of a wealthy man, his friend. He also objects to the young man's lack of a profession, and to his lack of character, shown by his having taken a fancy to several professions, including that of missionary, and having abandoned them all during the preparatory stage. At this point, the young man's father arrives in England from India, announces his intention to marry again soon, struggles with himself over the question whether he shall tell his reputed son that he is only an adopted child, and ends by deciding to transfer his dead wife's property to the young fellow, in accordance with her will, and not to reveal the secret. The reader is led to expect great results from this secret and from the father's struggles, but nothing whatever ensues. The young man follows the girl to Scotland, and, strong in the consciousness of an income, he urges his father to consent to his marriage. The girl's father suddenly changes his mind on the subject, and the girl's stepmother bestows the combined family blessing. The girl dons her best hat, allows herself to be wooed, though she cares no more than before for the man, and ends by refusing him before he asks her. Shortly afterwards, the young man is injured in an accident; she is sent for, retains sufficient vanity, in the midst of her new-born interest and anxiety, to get into her best raiment during her hurried journey to him, and betroths herself to him by taking from his finger a ring which has changed, in the course of a few pages, from one pearl to several emeralds. All this is done, in regulation stage fashion, while the young man is lying, as she thinks, at death's door.

This very slender and very commonplace tale is enlivened by the preternaturally wise chatter of the heroine's little step-brother, who worries over such questions as, "Has mankind any duties towards vermin?" and the like. There are also scraps of adult conversation, evidently culled, like the preceding, from the author's note-book, and woven into the story with more or less awkwardness. In fact, a desire to utilize the dregs of a note-book is responsible for the publication of this volume, which is, to use plain language, unmitigated trash.

The great emotion which between thirty and forty years ago tore the heart of the United States and culminated in civil war, flickers through the pages of 'Rachel Stanwood.' The author has a knowledge in detail of the methods of the abolitionists, and a sympathy with their cause, which are invaluable for a forceful translation of dead issues and past interests into the sphere of the living present; it is therefore to be regretted that this knowledge and sympathy is not supplemented by a literary skill which would fasten the attention of a generation born in tamer times. There is moral rectitude in the effort to describe impartially the three parties to the strife—the abolitionist, the Southern slaveholder with his Northern ally, and the trimmer—admirable in an avowed historian, but fatal to the novelist, who has to reach the intellect by way of the emotions. If Mrs. Stowe had been severely fair, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' would not to-day count readers by the thousand in divers tongues. It is very hard to resuscitate a passion, and probably nothing short of genius could now give an adequate impression of the greatest historical example of enduring passion for the welfare of a servile race. Occasionally it throbs in Mrs. Morse's pages, yet the heat is lacking, and one must wish that she could have let herself go more freely with the tide of her inclination and conviction.

FUNK'S STANDARD DICTIONARY.

A Standard Dictionary of the English Language. Prepared under the supervision of Isaac K. Funk, D.D., etc. In two volumes. Vol. I. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co. 1893.

GREAT prominence is given in the advertisements to claims for this dictionary of an enormous number of words ("*Johnson*, 45,000; *Stormonth*, 50,000; *Worcester*, 105,000; *Webster* (International), 125,000; *Century*, 225,000; *Standard*, nearly 300,000"), although the strenuous effort of the good lexicographer is to *keep down* his vocabulary. In an ordinary dictionary of reference, 25,000 words comprise all that anybody ever looks out. The rest is obstructive rubbish. Completeness is not to be thought of in any dictionary. Murray's Dictionary is probably the best that ever was made of any extensive language—better than Grimm, better than the Della Crusca, far better than the performance of Littré. He has had the services of some 1,500 readers. Yet his failure to include every vocable can be made apparent in half an hour by running over the pages of a few books of diction anyways marked in character and which are books Murray's readers may probably have passed by. The statement that Funk's Dictionary contains four words to every three in the Century, of however little consequence it might be, seemed to us, considering the process of manufacture of these compilations, to be sufficiently remarkable to be subjected to some control. We have therefore taken, in the Ds, Fs, Gs, and Hs, evenly distributed alphabetic intervals, amounting in the well-proportioned International Webster to the 150th part of the whole, and have counted the words (rejecting mere variations of spelling and other very slight differences) in both the Century and Funk. We find 1,207 in the former and 1,243 in the latter. This would make a total of 181,000 words in the Century and 186,000 in Funk, which we have no doubt is about the truth. Dr. Funk has inserted all the words in the Century Dictionary, with a very few omissions for which no reason is discernible, unless they were made because good manners prescribes that something shall be left. To these he has added, in the first place, a quantity of derivatives. Thus, the Century having cumbered its pages with *Graciliariidæ*, Funk adds *graciliariid* (an individual of the family of *Graciliariidæ*) and *graciliarioid* (like a graciliariid). The next successor in the business will add *graciliarioidally*. In the second place, Dr. Funk has added a number of compound words, mostly of a technological kind, such as *flock-cutter* (a machine for making flocks), *flock-duster* (a machine for cleansing flock by removing ordinary dust), and *flock-opener* (a machine for loosening out bunches of wool-dust, or other flock, in order that it may feed properly to paper that is being flocked). In the third place, in number equal to less than one-seventh of all his additions, are such as really seem to be of value, such as *dadny*, *fawncolor*, *gladsheim*.

One of the first questions to be asked concerning a dictionary is whether it is well proportioned in the sense of doing equal justice to different parts of the alphabet. Since it is useful for many purposes to have a ready means of dividing an English dictionary into approximately equal parts, we give the following table, showing the proportionate space occupied by different letters in several dictionaries. (The unit is the space occupied by the mean of E, F, G, M, and R, which is estimated for the unfinished dictionaries.)

	Int. Webster.	Century.	Murray.	Funk.
A.....	1.49	1.28	0.81	1.63
B.....	1.25	1.06	1.02	1.22
C—Cni.....	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.08
Co—Cz.....	1.31	1.17	1.29	1.15
D.....	1.39	1.18	.....	1.15
E.....	0.97	0.92	.....	0.93
F.....	0.76	0.78	.....	0.77
G.....	0.85	0.95	.....	0.88
H.....	1.17	0.94	.....	0.95
I, J.....	0.97	0.93	.....	0.96
K, L.....	1.15	1.16	.....	0.98
M.....	0.93	0.92		
N, O.....	1.06	1.12		
P—Pny.....	1.07	1.09		
Po—Quo.....	1.15	1.14		
R.....	1.01	1.02		
S—Shy.....	0.83	0.82		
Sl—Spy.....	0.97	0.86		
Sq—Sz.....	1.30	1.33		
T, U, V.....	0.85	0.71		
W, X, Y, Z..	0.85	0.79		

In almost all dictionaries the As are compiled on a different plan from the rest of the dictionary (or are deliberately increased to make a show). In a thoroughly well-proportioned work, they would occupy a space not far from one unit. Murray's plan seems to have been somewhat expanded after the As appeared. It was between the publication of Murray's second part, concluding the As, and his third, that the 'Century Dictionary' was announced. In the Century and in the International the space occupied by the As is disproportionately great; in Funk's Dictionary it is grotesquely so. In those parts of the alphabet where the dictionary with longer explanations will be most nearly like the briefer work, as in *un-*, *in-*, *de-*, *dis-*, *con-*, the relative space in the Century naturally sinks below that in Webster. In H, which abounds in words calling for long explanations (*hand*, *held*, *hold*, *hang*, *hard*, *he*, *have*, *horse*, *house*, *heart*, etc.) the number for the Century is greater. Funk's Dictionary, owing to its way of packing derivatives and compounds, has proportions closely agreeing with those of the Century. Its As and Bs are disproportionate, owing to its drawing largely from Murray. In order to satisfy ourselves in regard to the causes of the discrepant numbers for A, we have made a careful examination of parts of the above-mentioned dictionaries, together with the Imperial and some others, in a dozen equably distributed alphabetic intervals in the As and Bs. It is upon this comparison that the above assertions rest.

Dr. Funk has a most imposing array of editors and contributors. March (consulting editor), Newcomb, Dr. Doremus, Max Müller, Titus M. Coan, Huxley, Alexander Graham Bell, Henry M. Stanley, Mark Harrington, Gill, Kunz, F. Horace Teall, Rossiter Johnson, Steinitz, Amelia Edwards, Edward Everett Hale, Edward Morse, Bjerregaard, H. B. Storer, Ray Lankester, Benson J. Lossing, William R. Harper, Harrison Grey Fiske, A. H. Sayce, George W. Smalley, Horace Furness, and many others make a wonderful mixture. But they could not, all of them, put a large part of their souls into pages crowded with

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"daffadilly‡, daffadowndilly‡, daffodilly‡, daffodowndilly‡, daffydowndilly‡," and the like.

To test the definitions, let us select (without consulting either work beforehand) a dozen words in H, which it seems likely that persons such as would wish to possess a dictionary like this would wish to find definitions for; and for these let us compare Funk's definitions with Webster's:

(1.) *Hæmony.* One of those enigmas with which Milton loved to empuzzle his readers. The two dictionaries give conflicting explanations.

(2.) *Hank.* "Humphrey had this double hank upon her inclinations" (Humphrey Clinker). Webster is slightly the better, and gives an appropriate example: "The devil hath got such a hank over him."

(3.) *Harry.* A common name in England for a cheap grade of playing-cards showing Henry VIII. on the wrappers. Omitted by both Funk and Webster.

(4.) *Half-sprit.* "She sailed with a half-sprit, like a yacht." (Defoe.) Neither work explains this.

(5.) *Haw.* What is the haw of a blood-hound? Neither dictionary tells.

(6.) *Headcheese.* Why is it called *cheese?* Neither informs us.

(7.) *Hecastotheism.* One of Major Powell's words, and a good one. Funk has it, the International not.

(8.) *Hector.* Defined by Funk as "A quarrelsome, domineering, threatening fellow"; by Webster as "A bully; a blustering, turbulent, insolent fellow." Neither explains this passage in Pepys: "We had a great many hectors in the same box with us, and one, a very fine one, went into the pit and played his dog for a wager."

(9.) *Hegelianism* receives in Funk a correct explanation, but one perfectly unintelligible to anybody who does not understand the system. Webster attempts no such statement.

(10.) *Helicoid.* Funk defines it as "A surface generated by a line one end of which moves along an axis while the other end describes a spiral." Now, since some sort of spiral can be described on every ruled surface, the last clause is without effect, and the definer might as well have said, "A ruled surface containing a straight line not a generator." Webster's definition is, "A warped surface which may be generated by a straight line moving in such a manner that every point of the line shall have a uniform motion in the direction of another fixed straight line, and at the same time an angular motion about it." This covers the "developable helicoid," which the other definition (though otherwise far too wide) excludes.

(11.) *Hertstone.* "King John ordered Doncaster to be enclosed in hertstone and pale." (Southey.) Neither dictionary gives *hertstone.*

(12.) *Heterokinesy.* A term much used by Cudworth. In neither Funk nor Webster.

In arranging the various meanings of a word, for the purpose of definition, Dr. Funk adopts the plan of putting the most ordinary everyday meaning first. At first blush, this looks like good sense in the case of a one-volume dictionary, which can make no pretension to serving the turn of those who wish to study the language scientifically, or even that of those who wish to learn its niceties of expression. Besides, he who is considering what words really *do* mean becomes so tired of lexicographers' attempts to *guess* the meaning from the derivation—attempts due to their study of English literature not being sufficient to inform them how that primeval meaning may have become modified in centuries of growth of associations—that he is disposed to welcome a rupture with etymology. But when he comes to see what Dr. Funk's rule leads to, he begins to think that, after all, there is some merit in definitions based on the very early history of words. The spelling in Funk is very nearly the same as that of the Century Dictionary. That the pronunciation is none too conservative is shown by the fact that no alternative is admitted to any of the following: ab'stract (adj.), ad'jectival, bŏmbast, confes'sor, consis'tory, cōny, cȳnosure (atonic sh), disinterested (atonic), dȳnasty, exhale (atonic), exile (atonic), ex'tirpate, gas (atonic), hoūsewīfe, im'becile, isolate (atonic).

A few little things that have struck our attention in looking over Dr. Funk's pages may be mentioned.

Burton, in the sense of *ale* ("I am more inclined to think strong beer of myself, cwrw, Burton, audit-ale, old October." Southey) is omitted by Murray, the Century, and all the dictionaries.

Guillaume. Funk does not puzzle us by calling a *rabbit* a *rebate;* but why talk of "joiners"? They are a kind of carpenters hardly known in the breadth of this country.

Diarian. Badly defined. It means pertaining to a diary, an old-fashioned kind of almanac.

Asses' bridge. The figure of the 47th proposition is wrongly drawn.

Face of a polyhedron omitted.

Doddered, a second non-existing word introduced, from not understanding the first.

Blanch, the regular meaning in cookery not given, though right in Murray.

The omissions common to Funk and the Century are very curious unless causally connected. Such are, dissuava (a general), ditch-water (old wine), double-bob-major, doxoscopy, drop-handkerchief, dubitative (subs.), dudley-nose, dulling, dumrie, dungally, dupper, dyadison, and thousands more.

We should be glad to praise the typography of the Standard Dictionary, but there is no beauty in these pages, and the necessary condensation is extreme.

CABINET GOVERNMENT.—II.

Les Ministres dans les principaux pays d'Europe et d'Amérique. Par L. Dupriez, Professeur à l'Université de Louvain. Paris: J. Rothschild. 1893.

THE second volume of this book is devoted to the republics of the United States, France, and Switzerland. The account of the United States is of interest to an American chiefly as a test of the author's thoroughness and accuracy, and the test is borne extremely well. The usual preliminary and succinct review of the origin of our institutions precedes the actual analysis. The writer, like all foreigners, seems to derive satisfaction from pointing out ours as a peculiar and unique form of government, in that the members of the Cabinet are excluded from all access to the House, because the Constitution forbids them to be members of either house, although he remarks that in Prussia and in Switzerland the ministers have the right of entry into the chambers, while in the former they may not be and in the latter they cannot be members. Yet, like a staunch hound, he recovers the scent when later he says:

"Some years ago the proposition was made in the Federal Congress to permit the ministers to be admitted to speak before each of the two houses upon questions concerning their respective departments, without being able to take part in the debates upon general policy. But all efforts in this direction have failed through the fear of Congress of seeing this reform menace its independence and considerably increase the force of executive authority."

In other words, this change, which requires only a vote of the two houses, and is immensely for the interest of the nation, is barred merely by the jealousy with which Congress guards its usurpation of all the power of the Government. M. Dupriez sees, further, that in this respect the fear is well grounded.

"The people are generally happy to see the President make a bold use of his right of veto. In the struggles between the executive power and Congress, the people have rarely sided with the latter. Elected by the people, the first magistrate of the republic exercises upon the popular mind the natural ascendancy which a living and acting personality has over the masses. They see in him their direct representative, and they applaud the man whom they have made what he is, when he shows the strength of his character and acts resolutely upon a well-considered plan. The chambers, on the other hand, have too often given to the nation occasion to distrust their conduct. Sometimes obedient to intrigues, at others carried away by passion to hasty decisions, they have shown in their actions an incoherence and a confusion of ideas which have struck the people. Then they appear to the people as an abstract quantity, and the latter do not know how to analyze the causes or to fix the responsibility of their decisions. The President has all the prestige of a king, while his popular origin preserves him from the distrust which is excited by every hereditary and irresponsible power."

M. Dupriez shows further that in financial as well as all other legislation the initiative is entirely in the hands of Congress, neither the President nor his cabinet having the power to submit a bill. All that the executive can do is to send a message or sort of political manifesto, which is only a declaration of opinion, apart from which he has only a veto, or the power of saying what shall not be done. The President and his cabinet can exercise no serious influence upon either the House of Representatives or the Senate—directly, that is, for M. Dupriez shows how this may be done by the use of offices and the operations of the lobby, the spoils system resting upon too solid a foundation to be permanently displaced while the present relation between the two branches exists.

As is natural, our author, while avoiding conclusions, evidently cannot understand how a country can get on with such a complete violation of all well-established principles of government; but, like them also, he is silenced by the splendid material achievements which have been accomplished. An American may suggest that these are owing to the character and political intelligence of the people, to the happy combination of the federal and local governments, and to the strength of trained universal suffrage; that the logic of principles is working itself out here as elsewhere; and that the false relation of executive and legislature is the most threatening danger which confronts not merely our Federal Government, but those of our States and cities. Even the success of our civil war, with the restoration of the Union and the abolition of slavery, which has led Europeans to look upon our institutions with wondering respect, can be shown, in the light of studies like those of M. Dupriez, to have resulted from the fact that Congress, which had blundered along fairly well through some decades of peace, in such an emergency practically abdicated its functions, and surrendered the Government, with the tacit consent of the people, to four years of despotism, precisely in the same way, though with very different circumstances and

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results, as the Convention of 1793 and the French nation submitted to the Committee of Public Safety through the Reign of Terror.

The Constitution of the Swiss Confederation has of late attracted a good deal of attention in this country, and M. Dupriez, in his account of it, refers frequently to two of the American writers upon the subject. We have, for our part, read most of these works, but have never met with so vivid and clear a statement of the working of the Swiss institutions as this of M. Dupriez. In his summing up of the different systems he distinguishes four, in a general way:

"(1.) The system of the separation of powers, of which the model is furnished by the Constitution of the United States.
"(2.) The system of the distinction and the union of powers with preponderance of royal power, or what may be called personal government tempered. Of this the Prussian Constitution offers the most characteristic type.
"(3.) The system of the distinction and the union of powers with the preponderance of Parliament. It is this which has passed from England to most European countries.
"(4.) Lastly, the system of the confusion of powers, wholly peculiar to Switzerland."

This confusion begins in the relations between the Federal and State Governments, which are by no means so clearly defined as in this country. For instance, the central Government in certain respects guarantees the citizens not merely against its own authorities, but against those of the cantons. The rights of the cantons are being steadily encroached upon by the central Government for want of definite boundaries. Switzerland resembles the United States in being a federation of independent States, and in the composition of its chambers, but otherwise the two republics have nothing in common. The Americans, while basing their system on the sovereignty of the people, were so far imbued with the traditions of monarchy as to preserve the unity of executive power, and took care to establish safeguards against the abuse of it. In Switzerland the only associations were with the cantonal governments, many of which had general assemblies. The framers of the Federal Constitution, therefore, lodged the executive power with a committee, and never thought of taking guarantees against anybody.

The Federal Executive Council of seven members is elected by the two assemblies jointly, and is absolutely dependent upon them. The Assembly elects the Council for three years, can and frequently does reëlect them indefinitely, but cannot dismiss them before their term is out—that is, legally; but it would be as easy for the Assembly indirectly as it is for the English or French Parliament to make government impossible for the Council, and to give themselves up to the game of upsetting ministries. That this is not done is owing partly to the moderation and patience of the Swiss people, but partly to the fact that the Council never furnishes any opportunity. It never thinks of setting up its will against that of the chambers. According to Swiss political customs, the ministers have not even the choice of submission or resignation. They submit and obey with a good grace.

"The federal councillors know nothing of the political responsibility which keeps the members of a cabinet government perpetually at the mercy of a parliamentary majority. The chambers may adopt motions of blame and censure towards their conduct, may reject the propositions which they have submitted, may vote the bills which they have opposed, without their feeling obliged to give up their positions. Whatever happens, they finish their elected term, and only then can there be a question for them of a certain political responsibility in the sense that their past administration may hinder or assure their reëlection."

That is precisely what might take place, though in a more positive degree, with the cabinet of an individual President elected directly by the people for fixed terms and independently of the Legislature.

In a successful five-act drama the climax of interest and excitement is reserved for the last act. Like a skilful playwright, M. Dupriez has given his closing section to France, and there cannot possibly be more instructive reading for the people of the United States. With the downfall of the ancient monarchy, the executive power was, so to speak, in a state of solution, and had to be constituted anew. On the 29th of September, 1789, Mirabeau, who had studied the English Constitution, proposed to declare the ministers eligible to the functions of deputy, and to permit the King to choose his councillors among the deputies without the latter being obliged to resign their seats. As this proposal shocked too violently the prejudices and resentments of the Assembly, Mirabeau modified it by asking merely that the ministers should be admitted provisionally to the Assembly with a consultative voice. But all the good reasons, the eloquence, and the personal authority of the orator were of no avail against the jealousy of that body.

We must pass over the tempting period of the two empires and the two monarchies, and come to the actual state of affairs. The Third Republic does not rest upon any formal constitution. The strain between the royalist majority and the republican minority was so great that, though the disasters of the war kept them from coming to blows, they were able to work out, after four years of painful and laborious effort, only three short constitutional laws, regulating merely the organization, the rights, and the relations of the different branches of the Government. They contain no disposition as to the rights and liberties of the citizen, and none even as to essential political institutions like the annual vote of the budget, while they pass over in silence the whole judicial organization. And yet those four years mark an immense progress in political training, in the practice of patience in the minority and moderation in the majority, beyond anything which France has ever seen.

The most important feature is the election of the President by the two chambers in joint convention. The disadvantages of this, as compared with election by the nation, are obvious, but the experience of the Republic of 1848 and of Louis Napoleon was enough to prevent the repetition of that experiment. And yet, as M. Dupriez intimates, the opposite evil is almost as great by reducing the President to a cipher. In theory he has the appointment of the ministry, but in practice he has no more power in this respect than the Queen of Great Britain, and even less, in so far as he cannot dissolve the Chamber of Deputies without the assent of the Senate. The ministry is, therefore, completely at the mercy of the majority of the Chamber. But this majority is not, as in England, a compact body, held together by at least a semblance of party principle, and faced by an equally compact minority ready to furnish a ministry at any time. In France the Chamber is divided into groups—Legitimists, Orleanists, and Bonapartists, Extreme Right and Left, Moderate Right and Left, and Right and Left Centre. These groups have sufficient power of combination to pull a ministry down, but not enough to maintain one in power. Most of the members think themselves quite fitted to be ministers, and are ready to join in expelling the actual incumbents in the hope, however small, of getting into their places. The result is that while the executive in Great Britain is the strongest which exists in any really constitutional government in the world, that of France is the most pitiably weak—unless we except, though for quite different reasons, that of the United States.

All executive power has, therefore, practically passed into the hands of the Legislature, and it is a curious study to trace its working as compared with that of the United States. In both, the government by committees differs only in their organization. The French Chambers are divided into bureaus—nine in the Senate and eleven in the Chamber of Deputies—which are renewed every month by lot, and they have the double mission of discussing plans and proposals which are sent to them and of electing the committees provided for by the rules—that is, annual, monthly, and special. But the rule of the committees in both countries is nearly absolute, and affords the same facility for intrigue and lobbying on behalf of local and private interests as against that of the people at large.

It is to be observed that the weakness of the executive in France and in the United States is owing to wholly different causes. In France the President is elected by the chambers jointly. No man will ever hold the place who is not prepared to bend his will to theirs, or who will assert himself against them—that is, unless by violence. The ministry, therefore, is not his but theirs, to be dealt with at their pleasure, an uncertain quantity, fluctuating with the shifting and dissolving groups. In the United States, owing to the wonderfully wise and fortunate provision of the Convention of 1787, the President is not elected by Congress but by the nation, appoints his own cabinet, and he and they are wholly independent of the Legislature. The weakness in his case consists in this, that, in virtue of the action of the first Congress, persistently maintained by every subsequent one, the executive branch is cut off from all share in debate and any voice in the conduct and guidance of legislation, or from any direct appeal to the constituents, who are taught to expect Congress to do, of its own motion, everything that ought or needs to be done. If this defect were remedied, the situation would be analogous not so much to that in Great Britain as to that in Prussia, where, as we have seen, the ministers hold office, not at the pleasure of the Legislature, but of the King—but with this difference, that, instead of an hereditary ruler by divine right, the sovereign would be the people, called upon at stated intervals to express its will as arbiter between the two branches; while in view of this it would be perfectly possible, as we have seen takes place in Switzerland, for the President to maintain his cabinet in office throughout his term, regardless of adverse votes in Congress. In this way the perpetual and inevitable conflict between the two branches would be carried on, not by secret intrigue, in which Congress always gets the upper hand, but in open and manly encounter, in full view of the nation.

We may add that while we have followed M. Dupriez only in his examination of the national executives, he gives also a clear though of course not so detailed an account of local administrations, which is not the least valuable part of his invaluable book.

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Love in Letters of Statesmen, Warriors, Men of Letters, and Others. With a Preface by Henri Pène Du Bois. Brentano's.

It is a bold thought to undertake an anthology, either in prose or verse, in these days when appreciation has become one of the fine arts, and men who themselves belong to Parnassus do not think it beneath them to select and bind together the flowers of other writers. It is a still bolder venture to offer even "brief notes" upon thirty-six different writers, when notes and selections, in the uncondensed medium of prose, have both to be contained in the limits of one small volume. When, finally, the intervals of time and differences of personality which separate the writers are as wide as those between Abelard and Abraham Lincoln, or Henry VIII. and Hawthorne, a plane of boldness seems to have been reached where even a Palgrave or a Saintsbury might fear to tread.

It appears doubtful, however, whether any misgiving has seized the compiler of this rashly strung collection of letters. By what principle he has been guided in making it, it is not easy to discover. Some lovers are represented by scraps, others by batches from their correspondence, and there are to be found among them those who could not put pen to paper without giving it a charm. But the skill to choose what could give a clear idea of the essential quality of each one's passion, and of its more or less troubled course, has been lacking. The notes are not of a quality to atone for other deficiencies. Some of them may, in virtue of their brevity, be allowed to prove their own merits. Mary Stuart, with her dates and titles, is set down as "idealized in French, depreciated in English, histories." "Printer, inventor, philosopher, a founder of American independence, how his practical, familiar, enduring earthly wisdom, accentuated his individuality in the troubled world of Paris! How he seemed unconventional to the French in their exalted atmosphere!" This is, of course, no other than Benjamin Franklin; while of whom but Shelley could it have been declared that "in an age a prey to unknown ills, tormented by the birth-throes of new ideas, the poet incarnated in himself the misery of all, and expressed it with tremulous intensity"? Unless there is in this and more of the same style a soul of wit which has wholly escaped us, it only remains to advise those who wish to become acquainted with love in letters to seek their introduction at the hand of a writer who will perform it otherwise.

The Sacred City of the Ethiopians; Being a Record of Travel and Research in Abyssinia in 1893. By J. Theodore Bent. Longmans, Green & Co. 1893. Illustrations, map. Pp. xv, 309. 8vo.

Mr. Bent's account of his Abyssinian expedition in the early part of last year, though interesting, is slightly disappointing. His principal object was to explore the ruins at Aksum, the ancient capital of Ethiopia and still its religious centre. With some difficulty and danger on account of the disturbed political condition of the country, he reached this place and spent ten days in the examination of the highly interesting remains of a long-past civilization, and in obtaining squeezes of some of the inscriptions upon its monuments. These, together with others found in the neighboring ruins of a still more ancient capital, prove the presence of the Sabæans of Arabia in the heart of the country as early as the seventh or eighth century B. C. Now, although he devotes a chapter to an account of the relatively unimportant Portuguese episode of recent times, Mr. Bent nowhere gives a clear and succinct account of what is positively known or reasonably conjectured concerning the Sabæan empire, which apparently reached its culminating point in the sixth century of our era. The main facts are scattered through the volume, no doubt, but, for want of a concise statement of them, the reader is often confused and finds it hard to take an intelligent interest in Mr. Bent's investigations and discoveries. A probable explanation of this defect may be haste in the preparation of the book occasioned by his new expedition to Hadramaut in Southern Arabia, upon which, accompanied by his wife, he set out a few weeks ago.

A very considerable part of the volume is taken up with an account of the various places visited in Eritrea, as the Italians call their Red Sea colony, while waiting for permission to enter Abyssinia proper, and on the return journey to the coast. Here again we fail to get any clear impression as to the effect upon the country of the Italian occupation. Beyond a few references to the construction of roads and the establishment of several experimental stations by the School of Agriculture, we are left uninformed as to what is being done to develop its resources and to reopen the old trade routes into the interior. It is evident, however, that, in Mr. Bent's opinion, the prospects of the Italians getting any adequate return for the enormous sum of money and many lives spent in the consolidation of their power are not very encouraging, and that the success of their enterprise is still problematical. The natives seem to be in a state of decay physically as well as morally. According to the reports of the Italian officers, the Abyssinian youth were relatively "intelligent and active up to the age of thirty-five, and after that they soon became decrepit and useless." Mr. Bent's experiences among them would seem to confirm this impression, and he draws a very unattractive picture of their habits and dwellings. The objects of greatest interest were the churches and the ritual, whose distinguishing feature was the dance of the priests. At the festival of the baptism of the cross at Epiphany, after the reading of the lessons,

> "the black-faced, bare-legged priests, with white turbans and red velvet cloaks, a *sistrum* [rattle] in one hand and a crutch in the other, waved to and fro in the mazy dance, whilst boys beat the drums to regulate the time. The figures seemed to us something between a minuet and a quadrille. Every step was studied and graceful, as they changed over from side to side, shaking their rattles and waving their crutches, chanting the while in low and decidedly sweet tones."

The Abyssinians believe that this custom, of which the only parallel in the Western Church is the dance of the boys in Seville Cathedral, is derived from David's dancing before the Ark. But the more probable supposition is that

> "the steps and the music have both been handed down from pagan times, and that the excuse of David has been invented to maintain this favorite and really graceful and solemn form of worship amongst them. These religious dances, in steps, time, and rhythm, forcibly reminded us of what a Greek chorus must have been round the altar of Dionysus."

Aksum, the sacred city, lies in a valley more than 7,000 feet above the sea and about 100 miles southwest of Massowah. Its ruins consist principally of monoliths, of which about fifty are still standing. They form a consecutive series, from merely rough, unhewn stones, like those of Stonehenge, to the highly finished and decorated obelisks. These latter are nearly all of the same character, and represent a many-storied castle with an altar at the base. The tallest is sixty feet high, but in a garden were found the fragments of one which when standing must have been ninety feet high. Scattered through the sacred enclosure surrounding the church (a building erected under Portuguese influence) were also mounds and rubbish-heaps, but their examination was prevented by the superstition of the Abyssinians. Apparently there are no remains of masonry such as are to be seen at Zimbabwe in South Africa, though the platform on which the church stands has signs of a very ancient substructure. In the neighboring town of Yeha, however, there is a massive piece of ancient masonry which was possibly a temple "dedicated to the old Sabæan cult of sun and star worship," and is evidently, from the character of the Himyaritic inscriptions found in the ruins about it, of an earlier date than the monoliths of Aksum. Mr. Bent visited the site of another ancient city, picturesquely situated on the summit of a lofty hill not far from the sea—probably a summer resort for the inhabitants of the coast towns; but its ruins, hastily examined, revealed nothing of special interest.

There are a number of interesting illustrations from photographs by Mrs. Bent and sketches by her husband, together with an excellent map of the region visited. Prof. D. H. Müller of Vienna contributes an important chapter upon the inscriptions found at Yeha and Aksum. The chief value of the work, however, apart from its pictures of life in Abyssinia at the present time, is that it calls attention again to the fact that in this country there still exist monuments of a very ancient civilization, which, comparatively unexamined as yet, would doubtless throw much needed light upon some of the most obscure problems of the history of the Old World.

Stoics and Saints. By the late James Baldwin Brown. Macmillan & Co. 1893.

Under the not very significant title of 'Stoics and Saints' the representatives of the Rev. James Baldwin Brown have published a series of ten lectures delivered by him at various times and places, on the later heathen moralists and on some aspects of the mediæval church. Considered as separate essays, these lectures are interesting and valuable. They are animated by a spirit of remarkable fairness and intelligence. Mr. Brown knew better than most who have made similar attempts how to measure the phenomena of a time by the standards of that time, while still preserving for all human effort a standard above it all towards which all ought to strive.

The crucial point of the book is that where the author leaves the thread he has been following as he traced the gradual elevation of moral ideas through the early empire, and assumes a sudden break in the movement of thought and a sudden leaping of Christianity into the breach left vacant by the failure of heathen philosophy. Not that he is singular in this; no one has yet succeeded in showing satisfactorily how the Christian morality came to replace that of the ancient world. So far as the present work attempts the solution at all, it is by showing that philosophy had had its day, and that what the world demanded was a Life which it might emulate, not ideas which it must struggle to comprehend. The essay on monasticism is very critically appreciative, recognizing the falseness of the monastic

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principle as a rule of life in general, but acknowledging the great debt of society to it under conditions which made it the only available method of social reform.

Perhaps too much weight is given to the saintly side of King Louis IX. of France. Mr. Brown was content to accept the tradition of him, as the ideal king, handed down by his contemporary flatterers. It is a pretty picture of the royal saint amusing himself by dealing out justice to stray peasants under the trees of his park; but, after all, the really valuable thing was not this, but that, in every corner of the realm, his *baillis* were watching to enforce the royal justice and to gather the royal taxes. It may well be doubted whether the real significance of Louis IX. consists, as Mr. Brown thinks it does, in the fact that a saint preferred a throne to a monastery; it was rather that, being a king thoroughly determined to make the kingdom a force in the land, he added the quality of regard for a decent life which his predecessors had so often got on without.

The lecture on Wiclif presents no new or original points of view. Indeed, with Wiclif one passes fairly out of the mediæval world, and into a set of conditions wholly different from those which make a proper background for the rest of this book.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Australia As It Is. 3d ed. Longmans, Green & Co. $1.75.
Bateson, William. Materials for the Study of Variation, treated with especial regard to Discontinuity in the Origin of Species. Macmillan. $6.50.
Berenson, Bernhard. The Venetian Painters of the Renaissance, with an Index to their Works. Putnams. $1.25.
Bigelow, John, Jr. The Principles of Strategy. Illustrated mainly from American Campaigns. 2d ed., revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. $5.
Black, William. The New Prince Fortunatus. New and revised ed. Harpers. 80 cents.
Bonham, J. N. Secularism: Its Progress and its Morals. Putnams. $1.75.
Bonner, John. A Child's History of Spain. Harpers. $2.
Bütschli, Prof. O. Investigations on Microscopic Foams and on Protoplasm. London: A. & C. Black; New York: Macmillan. $6.25.
Dixon, E. Fairy Tales from the Arabian Nights. London: J. M. Dent & Co.: New York: Putnams. $2.
Documents Décoratifs Japonais. Fleurs et Plantes; Oiseaux. Paris: Librairie de l'Art.
Drysdale, William. The Mystery of Abel Forefinger. Harpers. $1.25.
Field, Eugene. The Holy Cross, and Other Tales. Chicago: Stone & Kimball.
Giry, Prof. A. Manuel de Diplomatique. Paris: Hachette.
Grandgent, C. H. A Short French Grammar. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 60 cents.
Grandgent, C. H. French Lessons and Exercises. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 15 cents.
Gunter, A. C. A Princess of Paris. Home Publishing Co.
Havard, Henry. Michiel van Miervelt et son Gendre. [Les Artistes Célèbres.] Paris: Librairie de l'Art; New York: Macmillan.
Henckels, Theodore. Molière's L'Avare. Boston: Ginn & Co. 65 cents.
Herman, Henry. His Angel. M. J. Ivers & Co. 25 cents.
Heyne, Prof. Moriz. Deutsches Wörterbuch. Fünfter Halbband. R—Setzen. Leipzig: S. Hirzel; New York: Westermann.
Hopkins, Prof. W. J. Telephone Lines and their Properties. New ed. Longmans, Green & Co. $1.50.
James, Dr. B. W. Alaskana. 2d ed. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates. $2.
Kidd, Benjamin. Social Evolution. Macmillan. $2.50.
Lindley, Percy. Holidays in England by the Cathedral Cities. London: The Author.
Longfellow's Evangeline, with Selections from Whittier and Lowell. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cents.
Lucas, C. P. A Historical Geography of the British Colonies. Vol. III. West Africa. Oxford: Clarendon Press: New York: Macmillan.
Maccallum, Prof. M. W. Tennyson's Idylls of the King and Arthurian Story from the XVIth Century. Macmillan. $2.50.
McKie, Thomas. Lyrics and Sonnets. Edinburgh: David Douglass.
Molinari, G. de. Religion. London: Sonnenschein: New York: Macmillan. 90 cents.
Officers of the Army and Navy (Regular and Volunteer) Who Served in the Civil War. Philadelphia: L. R. Hamersly & Co.
Pyle, Howard. The Rose of Paradise. Harpers. 50 cents.
Raymond, Prof. G. L. Art in Theory. Putnams. $1.75.
Sanday, Prof. W. Inspiration: Bampton Lectures for 1893. 2d ed. Longmans, Green & Co. $4.
Sutherland, Alexander, and George. The History of Australia and New Zealand. Longmans, Green & Co. 90 cents.
Taine, H. A. The Modern Régime. Vol. II. Henry Holt & Co. $2.50.
The Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Chicago: Knight, Leonard & Co.
Tisseur, Clair. Pauca Paucis. New ed. Lyon: Bernoux & Cumin.
Webb, Rev. T. W. Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes. Vol. I. Longmans, Green & Co. $1.75.
Wentworth, E. E. Irving's Sketch Book. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. 60 cents.

HITTELL'S MENTAL GROWTH OF MANKIND IN ANCIENT TIMES. From Savagism through Early Christianity. 4 vols. 12mo, in box, $6 00.

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TAINE'S MODERN REGIME. Vol II. Translated by John Durand. Completes M. Taine's *Origins of Contemporary France*, consisting of *The Ancient Régime*, *The French Revolution* (3 vols.), and *The Modern Régime*, Vol. I. Library Edition. $2.50 per volume.

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